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Japan

Mori Wants To Visit U.S. Before Miyazawa

OW0903031993 Tokyo KYODO in English 0301 GMT 9 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 9 KYODO—Japan's trade minister expressed hopes Tuesday of visiting the United States soon to discuss trade matters with Washington.

International Trade and Industry Minister Yoshiro Mori told a press conference after the day's cabinet meeting that he wants to visit the U.S. before Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa travels there in mid-April. "I want to correct whatever misunderstandings there are" on Japan-U.S. trade relations, he said. The schedule for the planned visit, however, will depend on the progress of Diet deliberations, Mori said.

Asked about the Bank of Japan's "Tankan" quarterly economic survey released Monday, the trade minister said its results were "within expectations."

Mori reiterated his proposal for massive spending on new infrastructure like telecommunications networks, which he claimed would be much more effective in reviving the economy than conventional public works spending which focuses on civil engineering projects. Posts and Telecommunications Minister Junichiro Koizumi supports this proposal, Mori said.

Semiconductor Talks Said Test of U.S. Policy

OW0903080593 Tokyo KYODO in English 0740 GMT 9 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 9 KYODO—Scheduled Japan-U.S. semiconductor trade talks in Hawaii on March 22-23 will be a test of trade policy of President Bill Clinton's administration, Japanese sources said Tuesday. The talks, on ways of expanding the market share of foreign-made semiconductors in Japan, will be the first Japan-U.S. trade talks since the inauguration of President Clinton in January.

A 1991 bilateral agreement calls for the foreign share of Japan's semiconductor market to exceed 20 percent by the end of 1992. The latest data is expected to be released in the near future.

Japanese officials say the 20 percent share is only a goal but U.S. officials insist the agreement promised a 20 percent share by the end of fiscal 1992. An official of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) said there is little doubt that the foreign share will fall short of the targeted level.

There is widespread speculation that the United States, frustrated by the slow progress in achieving the goal, could threaten retaliatory action against Japan under the Super 301 Trade Law. The law requires the U.S. Administration annually identify countries maintaining trade barriers against its exports and impose punitive tariffs if bilateral negotiations fail to remove the barriers.

Vessel With PRC Flag Fires Warning Shot at Cargo Ship

OW0903034893 Naha OKINAWA TIMES in Japanese 9 Mar 93 Morning Edition p 21

[Text] The 11th Maritime Safety Headquarters [11MSH] has received a report that three unidentified vessels—one displaying the national flag of the People's Republic of China—fired warning shots toward the Panamanian-registered cargo ship "Panding Timor Lima" (6,304 tons; with 18 crew members). No damage was caused to the cargo ship or its crew by the attack in open waters 240 kilometers northwest of Kumejima at around 0940 local time on 8 March. The captain of the Panding Timor Lima is a Japanese national.

Panding Timor Lima was involved in the 12th case this year, or 60th since March 1991, of a series of attacks by unidentified vessels in the East China Sea. However, this is the first case of an attack by a fleet led by a flagged boat.

According to 11MSH, one of the three boats approached the Panding Timor Lima, and repeatedly fired warning shots from a 10-meter range for about 20 minutes. The three boats gave up the chase at around 1216 after the cargo ship repeatedly zig-zagged to foil approaches by the remaining two boats. At last, the boats left the cargo boat and turned westward.

Each of the three boats was relatively small, of about 100 tons. Their names are unknown. Panding Timor Lima was attacked by one of them—a sky blue boat whose bridge is in the center, and which was flying the Chinese flag. No details are known about the other two.

In response to the report from Panding Timor Lima, 11MSH and 10MSH dispatched four patrol boats, including "Kudaka," and two airplanes to the scene. While they could not find any suspicious boats, patrolling operations are still in progress in the area. The incident occurred while the Panding Timor Lima was on its way from Malaysia to Imari Port, Saga Prefecture.

Philippine President Ramos Arrives in Tokyo

OW0903061893 Tokyo KYODO in English 0607 GMT 9 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 9 KYODO—Philippine President Fidel Ramos arrived in Tokyo on Tuesday afternoon for a five-day state visit to Japan.

Japan—the Philippines' biggest trade partner, foreign investor, and aid donor—is the first country outside the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) for Ramos to visit since taking office last June, Foreign Ministry officials said. ASEAN groups the Philippines, Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand. Ramos has visited all except Indonesia.

Ramos is scheduled to hold talks Wednesday with Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, who bypassed the Philippines during his visit to Southeast Asia in January. Miyazawa is ready to offer a large-scale yen loan package of more than 100 billion yen for the Philippines during talks with Ramos, according to Japanese Government sources.

In a statement in Manila moments before boarding his plane Tuesday, Ramos said, "We expect this visit to result in specific achievements in trade, aid, and financing agreements."

Ramos is also expected to discuss the problem of Philippine women who were forced into prostitution for the Japanese military during World War II.

Miyazawa, Others Discuss Kanemaru in Committee

OW0903072493 Tokyo KYODO in English 0630 GMT 9 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 9 KYODO—The arrest of former ruling party kingpin Shin Kanemaru for tax evasion is a separate issue from the 500 million yen political donation that led to his downfall last year, a government official told the Diet on Tuesday. Kunihisa Hama, director of the Justice Ministry's Criminal Affairs Bureau, was replying to questions from Social Democratic Party [of Japan—SDPJ] (SDP) member Maki Murasawa in the House of Councillors Budget Committee.

Kanemaru, 78, a former vice president of the governing Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), was arrested on Saturday on suspicion of evading 400 million yen in tax by failing to declare 800 million yen in income for 1987 and 1989. Former secretary Masahisa Haibara, 49, allegedly collaborated and was arrested too.

Kanemaru quit in disgrace last October for violating the political fund control law. He received the 500 million yen from the now-defunct Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin express parcel delivery company, which is at the center of a money-and-mob scandal involving politicians.

Kanemaru was fined 200,000 yen and a summary indictment imposed by prosecutors caused a public outcry because it was considered too lenient.

Justice Minister Masaharu Gotoda rejected Murasawa's demand that he reveal full details of the tax evasion charges against Kanemaru. Gotoda said the criminal procedures code bans such revelations until prosecutors have wrapped up their case and it goes to court.

Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa said the latest scandal involving Kanemaru is "really regrettable." Miyazawa said he is determined to pass a political reform bill through the current Diet session, saying "fairness and transparency of political funds must be made more clear."

The prime minister rejected Murasawa's demand that the Diet discuss the issue of political funds before tackling the proposed revamping of the electoral system. "Political funds are an urgent task (to be solved), but it is also true they are closely related to the election system," Miyazawa said.

The upper house Budget Committee opened Tuesday after a one-day delay because of disagreement between the LDP and opposition parties about summoning sworn witnesses to the Diet to testify on the Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin scandal. The House of Representatives passed the 72.35 trillion yen fiscal 1993 budget on Saturday and sent it to the upper house.

In a related development, opposition parties proposed to the lower house Budget Committee that Diet members question Rekiji Kobari, chairman of Fukushima Kotsu Co., at his hospital bedside. The proposal was made at a meeting of directors of the lower house committee in reaction to his notice to the lower house speaker on Monday that ill health prevents him from testifying in the Diet.

The lower house Budget Committee decided Saturday to summon Kobari to testify under oath on Thursday.

Kobari would be the third witness to testify about the scandal in the current Diet session. The others are former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita and former LDP Secretary General Ichiro Ozawa.

Later, the LDP agreed with the opposition to question Kobari at his hospital bedside on Thursday [11 March]. Committee chairman Shigeru Kasuya told a news conference that prosecutors have questioned Kobari at the hospital five times.

Apology Over Kanemaru Incident

OW0903140693 Tokyo KYODO in English 1359 GMT 9 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 9 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa apologized to voters Tuesday over the arrest of Shin Kanemaru who, as the governing party's chief power broker, once wielded enormous clout in the Japanese political community.

Miyazawa offered the apology three days after prosecutors arrested the 78-year-old Kanemaru, former ruling party vice president, and his former secretary on suspicion of evading income taxes amounting to hundreds of millions of yen each. "I'm very sorry that (Kanemaru) as a Diet member committed such an error," Miyazawa said, adding "(Parliamentarians) must restore public trust in politics."

Miyazawa was speaking at the day's session of the House of Councillors' budget committee in response to questions from Social Democratic Party [of Japan] (SDP) [SDPJ] member Masakazu Yamamoto and Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) member Yutaka Inoue. Following Saturday's arrest of Kanemaru and his former secretary Masahisa Haibara, the prime minister, who is also LDP president, had only expressed "regret," without offering any apology.

During the same committee session Tuesday, a senior Justice Ministry official denied any links between Kanemaru's suspected tax evasion and the 500 million yen donation he accepted from the Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin delivery firm. Kunihisa Hama, the ministry's Criminal Affairs Bureau chief, said Kanemaru's arrest was a separate issue from the 500 million yen donation that led to his downfall.

Justice Minister Masaharu Gotoda rejected SDP questioner Maki Murasawa's demand that he reveal full details of the tax evasion charges against Kanemaru. Gotoda said the code of criminal procedures bans such revelations until prosecutors have wrapped up their case and it goes to court.

Prosecution sources say Kanemaru allegedly evaded about 400 million yen of income taxes on an estimated 800 million yen of undeclared income in 1987 and 1989.

Kanemaru's former secretary Haibara, 49, allegedly failed to declare about 400 million yen of income between 1987 and 1992, evading some 200 million yen in income taxes during the five year period.

Kanemaru gave up his Diet seat in disgrace last October after he was fined 200,000 yen on summary conviction for accepting 500 million yen in illegal donations from Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin Co.

Prime Minister Miyazawa told the committee session he is making every effort to win Diet passage of a package of four political reform bills during the current parliamentary session in order to help prevent a recurrence of corruption. The 150-day Diet session which started on January 22 lasts through June. The LDP has drafted outlines of four political reform bills which are designed to introduce single-seat constituencies for general elections to the House of Representatives, tighter controls over political funds, and the provision of official subsidies to political parties.

The two largest opposition parties, the SDP and Komeito, have drafted a joint plan for a combination of proportional representation and single-seat constituencies.

The Democratic Socialist Party (DSP) on Tuesday decided on its own political reform plan centering on proportional representation based on constituencies corresponding to the 47 prefecture across the country.

Tuesday's debates in the House of Councillors' budget committee followed a one-day stalemate because of disagreement between the LDP and opposition parties about summoning sworn witnesses to the Diet to testify on the Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin Scandal. The House of Representatives passed the 72.35 trillion yen fiscal 1993 budget on Saturday and sent it to the upper house.

Prosecutors Confiscate Kanemaru's Debentures

OW0903032293 Tokyo KYODO in English 0242 GMT 9 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 9 KYODO—Former ruling party power broker Shin Kanemaru and his former aide held a total of 5 billion yen worth of discount bank debentures, sources close to prosecutors said Tuesday.

Prosecutors have found that Kanemaru and his former secretary, Masahisa Haibara, allegedly bought some 4 billion yen worth of "warishin" discount debentures issued by Nippon Credit Bank, the sources said. They also confiscated another 1 billion yen worth of "wariko" discount bank debentures issued by the Industrial Bank of Japan from Kanemaru's home in Moto-Azabu, they said.

Of the Nippon Credit Bank "warishin" discount debentures Kanemaru and Haibara allegedly purchased, 2.8 billion yen worth were in their possession and 1 billion yen worth were left at the bank, they said. Kanemaru, former Liberal Democratic Party vice president, and Haibara, are both under arrest for alleged tax evasion.

In a related move, informed sources said officials of the Nippon Credit Bank had given Kanemaru advice on managing the bank debentures. Prosecutors and tax authorities have begun questioning the bank officials, the sources said.

A discount debenture, free from depreciation of its value, is sold to investors at a price lower than its face value and then redeemed at face value when it matures after one year. At maturity, an investor may either redeem the debentures at a profit or replace them with new ones.

Discount debentures are not required to be registered by name. Kanemaru allegedly began buying unregistered "warishin" discount debentures from around 1984 and then replacing them at maturity, the sources said. But since the amount of the purchases soon became enormous, Kanemaru started registering his name because he considered it too difficult to keep concealing the transactions, they said.

The bank then appointed some officials to take charge of the dealings with Kanemaru and to give him advice. The sources said bank officials occasionally went to Kanemaru's office in Nagata-Cho, Tokyo, to pick up cash, sometimes amounting to hundred of millions of yen.

The Tokyo District Public Prosecutors Office suspects that Kanemaru and Haibara evaded 400 million yen worth of income tax by failing to declare 800 million yen in income for 1987 and 1989. Haibara also was suspected of failing to report an income of about 400 million yen and thus evading 200 million yen over a five-year period starting in 1987.

Kanemaru, 78, entrusted Haibara, 49, with managing bank debentures with a one-year maturity, the sources said. Kanemaru and Haibara will remain in custody at a detention house in Tokyo's Kosuge district until March 17.

Prosecutors plan to file an indictment against Kanemaru by March 13 before the five-year statute of limitations on tax evasion cases runs out, according to officials. Kanemaru filed tax returns for his 1987 income on March 14, 1988.

Prosecutors: Kanemaru Kept Gold Bars in Office

OW0903143493 Tokyo KYODO in English 1416 GMT 9 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 9 KYODO—Former ruling party strongman Shin Kanemaru kept a huge amount of gold bars worth several hundred million yen in a safe in his office, sources close to prosecutors said Tuesday. The Tokyo district public prosecutors office seized the gold bars, as well as securities and cash, after they were discovered in a safe at Kanemaru's office in central Tokyo, the sources said.

The value of the gold bars, securities and cash seized is expected to reach over 1 billion yen, they said. Prosecutors suspect Kanemaru and his former secretary Masahisa Haibara, both under arrest for alleged tax evasion, siphoned off political donations to fatten their personal fortunes, including a total of 5 billion yen worth of discount bank debentures, the sources said.

The gold bars held by Kanemaru are equivalent to several hundred million yen, they said. Currently, 100 kilograms of gold could be traded for roughly 130 million yen.

Kanemaru, 78, and Haibara, 49, were arrested Saturday on suspicion of evading income taxes worth several hundred million yen. Kanemaru allegedly evaded 400 million yen in income taxes by failing to declare 800 million yen of income in 1987 and 1989, prosecution sources said. Haibara allegedly failed to report income of about 400 million yen, evading 200 million yen for a five-year period starting in 1987, the sources said.

Earlier Tuesday, prosecutors found that Kanemaru and Haibara allegedly purchased some 4 billion yen worth of "warishin" discount debentures issued by Nippon Credit Bank, sources close to prosecutors said. They also reportedly confiscated another 1 billion yen worth of "wariko" discount bank debetures issued by the Industrial Bank of Japan from Kanemaru's Tokyo home.

The prosecution will quickly investigate when the assets were made and file an indictment against Kanemaru on alleged tax evasion for 1987 before the five-year statute of limitations runs out next Saturday, the sources said.

Of the Nippon Credit Bank discount debentures, Kanemaru and Haibara allegedly bought 2.8 billion yen worth and kept them in their possession, while 1 billion yen worth were left at the bank, the sources said.

Officials of Nippon Credit Bank also gave Kanemaru advice on managing the bank debentures, the sources said. A discount debenture, free from depreciation on its value, is sold to investors at a price lower than its face value and then redeemed at face value when it matures after one year. The debentures are not required to be registered under the buyer's name.

Kanemaru reportedly entrusted Haibara to manage bank debentures with a one-year maturity. The sources said Haibara sought and obtained consent from Kanemaru each time he purchased new debentures or replaced one-year debentures, the sources said.

Last October, Kanemaru retired from politics after being fined 200,000 yen for accepting an illicit 500 million yen political contribution from Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin Co., a now-defunct express parcel delivery firm at the center of a huge money-and-mob scandal. Prosecutors said the largesse from Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin was not part of the sum that Kanemaru is suspected of having evaded.

The two men are being held at the Tokyo detention house.

LDP Rejects Call for Scandal-Probe Committee

OW0903062493 Tokyo KYODO in English 0545 GMT 9 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 9 KYODO—The ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) on Tuesday rejected opposition calls for the setting up of a special Diet committee on the Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin scandal, LDP officials said. Four top LDP leaders adopted a proposal by one of them—LDP Secretary General Seiroku Kajiyama—to reject the opposition demand.

Kajiyama was quoted as telling a meeting of the four that he opposed the setting-up of the special committee because Rekiji Kobari, chairman of Fukushima Kotsu Bus Company has yet to be summoned to the Diet to testify on the scandal. Kobari is scheduled to testify under oath on Thursday but has notified the Diet he will not able to make the sworn testimony due to his admission to a hospital.

The Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin money-and-mobster scandal reportedly involves former LDP kingmaker Shin Kanemaru, former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita, and other LDP politicians.

The Social Democratic Party [of Japan—SDPJ] (SDP), Komeito, and the Democratic Socialist Party (DSP), meanwhile, agreed to propose the establishment of the scandal-probing committee to a meeting Tuesday afternoon of directors of the House of Representatives Steering Committee, opposition party officials said. The three opposition parties reached the accord in a meeting of Diet Affairs Committee chairmen three days after former LDP Vice President Kanemaru and his former secretary Masahisa Haibara were arrested on suspicion of tax evasion.

Iwao Teramae, head of the Japanese Communist Party (JCP) Diet Affairs Committee, told reporters the JCP supports the setting-up of a special committee to probe the scandal and the Kanemaru affair.

Prosecutors suspect that Kanemaru evaded 400 million yen in income tax by failing to declare 800 million yen in income for 1987 and 1989.

On political reform, Kajiyama told reporters after the meeting of the four top LDP leaders that the party will deal with a package of four political reform bills in negotiations with the opposition. Kajiyama's reassurance came after some LDP members had insisted on giving priority to a revision of the Political Fund Control Law, one of the four bills.

The current law sets a 1.5 million yen limit on the amount of political funds a politician can accept from a single source in a year.

The LDP has finalized the package of the bills aimed at tightening control on political funds, establishing a system to subsidize political parties in an attempt to stem political corruption, and reshape the electoral system.

In its central executive committee, the DSP decided on its own political reform plan, which centers on proportional representation based on the number of constituencies corresponding to 47 prefectures across the country.

The SDP and Komeito have draw up a joint political reform scheme calling for a combination of single-seat constituencies and proportional representation.

Witness Question 'First' Issue

OW0903114193 Tokyo KYODO in English 1119 GMT 9 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 9 KYODO—The governing Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) sidestepped opposition calls Tuesday to set up a special Diet committee on the Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin money-and-mob scandal involving politicians.

The LDP first wants to settle the question of who should be called before the legislature to give further testimony on the scandal, said Tsutomu Kawara, head of the LDP Diet Affairs Committee. Kawara was quoted as saying he wants to see first a decision on the witnesses' testimony at the budget committees of both houses of the Diet.

While not rejecting the proposal outright by Japan's three main opposition parties, Kawara told his opposition counterparts that the LDP should first study the political landscape.

In a related development at the lower house's steering committee, Japan's main opposition Social Democratic Party [of Japan] (SDP) [SDPJ], Komeito and the Democratic Socialist Party (DSP) formally tabled their joint proposal on the formation of the special committee on the scandal. The LDP gave no immediate reply to it, promising to study it later.

The three parties also demanded that the government agree to vote at the lower house on their jointly proposed resolution, which urges former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita to resign from parliament to take responsibility for his alleged involvement in the influence-peddling scandal. Takeshita allegedly used the help of a crime syndicate to quell a rightist group's smear campaign against him in 1987 during his successful attempt to gain the LDP presidency, a post that automatically made him prime minister because of the LDP's dominance in parliament.

During the meeting between Kawara and his opposition counterparts, they agreed that the ruling and opposition parties should decide on the issue of tax cuts before Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa visits the United States in mid-April, officials said. The decision should be made during Miyazawa's meetings with his opposition counterparts, they agreed.

The ruling party and the three opposition parties also agreed to set up a consultation panel next week to study the issue of tax cuts. The body will be chaired by LDP Secretary General Seiroku Kajiyama and composed of top-level officials of the parties, including secretaries general.

The SDP, Komeito and the DSP have demanded 4.26 trillion yen in overall tax cuts, including a 3.8 trillion yen income tax reduction.

So far the LDP has been reluctant to cut income taxes, saying it would require the issuing of deficit-financing national bonds, which the Finance Ministry opposes.

The government and the LDP got the 72.35 trillion yen fiscal 1993 state budget through the House of Representatives on Saturday and immediately sent it to the House of Councillors for further deliberations.

The three opposition parties reached the decision to make the formal proposal on the special panel on the scandal three days after former LDP Vice President Shin Kanemaru and his former secretary, Masahisa Haibara, were arrested on suspected tax evasion. Prosecutors suspect that Kanemaru evaded 400 million yen in income tax by failing to declare 800 million yen in income for 1987 and 1989. Haibara allegedly collaborated and also was arrested.

Watanabe Resumes Meetings With Foreign Guests

OW0903105793 Tokyo KYODO in English 1025 GMT 9 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 9 KYODO—After more than two weeks' hospitalization, Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe has resumed meetings with overseas dignitaries by hosting a dinner Tuesday in honor of Philippine

President Fidel Ramos who arrived in Tokyo on a five-day state visit. Foreign Ministry officials said Watanabe would also hold talks Wednesday with Swedish Foreign Minister Margaretha Af Ugglas, who chairs the 53-nation Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE).

Watanabe, 69, who is also deputy prime minister, was taken ill during a parliamentary debate on February 15, a day after returning from a visit to the United States, and hospitalized for what doctors said was a cold and exhaustion from overwork. He was subsequently indisposed during visits by U.N. Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali, Canadian Secretary of External Affairs Barbara McDougall and German Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

After 19 days of recuperation, Watanabe took part last Saturday in a 90-minute question-and-answer session in the House of Representatives budget committee.

Watanabe, who will be initially commuting to work from the Tokyo Women's Medical College Hospital, was also hospitalized in late May 1992 for gallstones and an infected biliary tract. It took him 40 days to resume his duties at that time.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Masamichi Hanabusa, in a meeting Tuesday with foreign correspondents, dismissed suggestions Watanabe is too ill to function effectively as Japan's diplomatic chief. "Foreign Minister Watanabe has sufficiently recovered from his hospitalization and has now resumed his official duties," he said.

Upper House Budget Committee Starts Debates

OW0903023293 Tokyo KYODO in English 0216 GMT 9 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 9 KYODO—The House of Councillors Budget Committee opened on Tuesday to debate the fiscal 1993 budget bill and handle questions on the Sagawa Kyubin scandal and the arrest of former ruling party kingpin Shin Kanemaru.

The opening of the upper house Budget Committee followed an agreement Monday by the governing Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and the opposition that they will reach a conclusion by Thursday on the summoning of sworn and unsworn witnesses to the Diet.

Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa and other ministers and officials will answer questions at the committee meeting from Social Democratic Party [of Japan—SDPJ] (SDP) member Maki Murasawa, SDP member Masakazu Yamamoto, LDP member Yutaka Inoue, and LDP member Mitsuhiro Uesugi, Diet officials said.

The interpellations will range from measures to cope with Japan's economic slump to the Sagawa Kyubin money-and-gangster scandal and the arrest of former LDP Vice President Kanemaru, the officials said.

On the Kanemaru affair, the questioners will ask prosecution officials about details of his arrest. On Saturday, prosecutors arrested Kanemaru and his secretary Masahisa Haibara on suspicion that they evaded hundreds of millions of yen in income tax.

The House of Representatives passed the 72.35 trillion yen fiscal 1993 national budget Saturday and immediately sent it to the upper house. The upper house Budget Committee was to have opened Monday but it was stalled due to disagreement of whether to summon sworn witnesses to the Diet to testify on the scandal.

If the budget bill is not approved in the opposition-dominated upper house, it will automatically become law 30 days after being passed by the lower house, or on April 4.

Hayashi 'Knows Nothing' of More Pump Priming

OW0903021393 Tokyo KYODO in English 0159 GMT 9 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 9 KYODO—Finance Minister Yoshiro Hayashi reiterated Tuesday that passage of the fiscal 1993 draft budget is a top priority for curing Japan's recession and he has not heard word of an additional pump-priming package. Hayashi, speaking before reporters after a morning cabinet meeting, said he has seen media reports that the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) is considering a fresh economic package worth 10 trillion yen, but he knows nothing about it.

With respect to the Bank of Japan's quarterly survey of business sentiment released Monday, Hayashi said the results were within the range of his prior expectations and the figures show that firms are anticipating their business performance to begin to improve in the next fiscal year beginning April 1. The so-called Tankan survey showed that business sentiment worsened in February from the previous poll in November, but also indicated that the bottom of the current recession may not be so far away.

Meanwhile, Hayashi refrained from commenting on whether economic growth in fiscal 1992 will be able to achieve the 1.6 percent government target, that had been revised downward from 3.5 percent.

Although he said it is still "too early to say anything about it" and that he must see more figures, the finance minister did express hope that the goal would be accomplished.

LDP Panel Approves Environment Bill Draft

OW090302219[illegible] Tokyo KYODO in English 0148 GMT 9 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 9 KYODO—An environmental panel of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) on Tuesday approved the final draft of an environmental bill that could lead to the introduction of taxes aimed at protecting the environment, party officials said. The panel approved the draft of the proposed basic environment law, which aims at compatibility of economic development and environmental preservation and at establishing a "sustainable society."

The government will submit the draft to the current Diet session after a cabinet meeting officially approves it Friday, the officials said. In its general provisions, the draft points to a growing sense of crisis in connection with the environmental situation across the country.

There is an increasing fear that the world's environment, which is crucial to the survival of the human race, could be destroyed by the negative effects of human activities, the draft warns.

As ways to achieve the compatibility of economic development and preserving the environment, the draft cited the introduction of economic measures, promotion of assessments of ecological impact for proposed projects, and promotion of international cooperation on environmental matters.

On economic measures to protect the national environment, such as taxes, the final draft was somewhat watered down from an earlier draft, due reportedly to stiff opposition from the Ministry of International Trade and Industry. Yet it still vows to gain public understanding of and cooperation with the economic measures and simultaneously to study the potential economic impact and the possibility of international cooperation if the measures are actually taken.

The measures could mean introducing charges or taxes on environmentally damaging products or activities, as well as deposits on returnable containers. Some northern European nations have already introduced environmental taxes, and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development plans to recommend the introduction of such taxes to its member states.

Concerning environmental assessments, which are currently made at the direction of the cabinet, the draft notes the need for "appropriate steps" to be taken to promote such efforts. The Environment Agency has no intention of incorporating these assessments into legislation at this stage, but this could well depend on Diet deliberations on the bill, agency sources said.

Nongovernmental organizations, however, are dissatisfied with the draft. They maintain that legislating for environmental assessments is essential to prevent pollution and preserve the environment.

The draft also seeks to protect the environment by boosting public awareness in this age of mass consumerism and by asking citizens to pay more heed to how they dispose of used or unwanted products. It also calls for more environmental assistance to developing countries and for Japanese corporations doing business abroad to take the environment of their host countries into consideration.

Mongolia

Antigovernment Protest Held in Ulaanbaatar

OW0703132293 Tokyo KYODO in English 1253 GMT 7 Mar 93

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, March 7 KYODO—About 7,000 people gathered in the Mongolian capital of Ulaanbaatar in protest against the ruling party on Sunday, the third anniversary of a hunger strike that led to the nation's democratic movement. The demonstrators called on opposition parties to renounce five seats in the 76-seat parliament to protest what they call misadministration of the ruling Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party (MPRP).

The hunger strike in 1990 forced the MPRP, formerly the communist party, to hold democratic elections for the first time.

Sunday's demonstration was the first since last June when a general election was held. The MPRP won a landslide victory in the election, capturing 70 seats. One is an independent seat.

Mongolia's economy remains in the doldrums, with a growth rate of minus 10 percent in 1992.

North Korea

100,000 Rally To Support Mobilization Order

SK0903112493 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1053 GMT 9 Mar 93

[Text] Pyongyang, March 9 (KCNA)—A Pyongyang mass rally was held at the Kim Il-song square today with the participation of more than 100,000 people to fulfil the order of Comrade Kim Chong-il, Supreme Commander of the Korean People's Army.

Seen in the square were slogan boards reading "Let us thoroughly fulfil the order of the respected comrade supreme commander!" and "We bitterly denounce the 'Team Spirit 93' joint military exercises of the U.S. imperialists and tme South Korean puppet clique!" and large posters showing the strong will of the Korean people to decisively smash the aggressive moves of the enemy and exalt once again the dignity and honor of heroic Korea.

Present at the rally were Vice-president Pak Song-chol, Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam and chief of general staff of the KPA Vice Marshal Choe Kwang who are Politburo members of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and other party and government officials.

Choe Tae-pok, alternate politburo member and secretary of the C.C., the WPK, stressed in his speech that the order of the respected comrade supreme commander was a just self-defensive measure to defend our socialist country and the gains of the revolution like an impregnable fortress from the military provocations of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets and an expression of the unshakable will and the revolutionary stand of the Korean people and the officers and men of the People's Army to destroy the enemy at one stroke if they start a war on this land.

"The 'Team Spirit 93' which is being staged at a time when the U.S. imperialist aggressors and the South Korean puppets are intentionally rendering the situation strained with outcries over the 'nuclear problem' is, in every respect, a nuclear attack rehearsal aimed at making a 'nuclear preemptive strike' at the DPRK and gratifying their aggressive desire," he said, and went on:

"No one can vouch that they will not go into a real war against the DPRK, while staging the joint manoeuvres.

"Today the Korean people and the officers and men of the people's army are determined to fight the aggressors to a finish and are firmly convinced that they will surely win.

"We will meet the enemy's military provocation with the might of singlehearted unity and inflict a disgraceful defeat on the aggressors.

"If the enemy dare provoke our socialist country, all our people and the officers and men of the People's Army will become rifles and bombs to defend the great leader President Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il at the cost of their lives and safeguard our precious socialist system like an impregnable fortress."

Speeches were also made by representatives of the KPA, the Worker-Peasant Red Guards and the youth and students.

They vowed to keep themselves always in full combat readiness to wipe out the enemy at one stroke, while effecting a great upsurge in socialist economic construction with a hammer or a sickle in one hand and a rifle in the other.

A letter of pledge to Comrade Kim Chong-il, respected supreme commanr was adopted at the rally.

The ralliers marched through the main streets of the city, chanting slogans condemming the nuclear warmaniacs.

Choe Tae-pok Addresses Rally

SK0903083893 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0603 GMT 9 Mar 93

[Speech delivered by Choe Tae-pok, alternate member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers Party of Korea, at a mass rally held in Pyongyang's Kim Il-song Plaza—live]

[Text] Comrades: A very dangerous situation in which a nuclear war may break out at any moment has been created on the Korean peninsula by adventurous Team Spirit joint military exercise commotions kicked up by the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets. To cope with such a situation, our Comrade Supreme Commander of revolutionary forces proclaimed a semi-war state on the entire country, all people, and the whole army. He ordered all the units of the Korean People's Army [KPA] and the Korean People's Security Forces and all members of the Workers-Peasant Red Guards and the Youth Red Guards to assume a complete combat mobilization posture [manbanui chontu tongwon taese]. He ordered that all the people should firmly arm themselves with our party's chuche-oriented view on war and should bring about a great upsurge in socialist economic construction while holding hammers and sickles in one hand and guns in the other.

The order of the respected and beloved comrade supreme commander is a very just self-defensive measure not only to tirelessly defend our socialist fatherland and the achievements of the revolution from the military provocative maneuvers by the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets, but also to check the aggressors' indiscreet war gamble in a timely manner. The order of the respected and beloved Comrade Supreme Commander is the expression of the firm determination and revolutionary posture of our people and the People's Army's soldiers who are trying to defeat the rascals in one blow, should the rascals dare ignite the fuse of war on this land.

Convinced that the order of Comrade Kim Chong-il, KPA supreme commander, great genius of the revolution, and ever-victorious iron-willed commander, is the most just revolutionary measure to prevent the danger of war from prevailing on the Korean peninsula and to defend peace in the country and security in Asia and the rest of the world, I express the firm resolution to thoroughly implement this order together with the participants of this mass rally. [applause]

In spite of the unanimous protests and denunciations by the entire Korean people and the world's peace-loving people, the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets are persistently conducting the Team Spirit joint military exercise. This is an unbearable challenge to our Republic and people who have made all efforts to achieve peace and peaceful reunification of the country. This is also an unpardonable crime, which is reversing the situation on the Korean peninsula of moving toward detente and peace again to the brink of a war.

As everyone knows, our Republic's Government repeatedly and strongly urged that the criminal war exercise plan be withdrawn considering the grave consequences that the Team Spirit joint military exercise will have on North-South dialogue and the implementation of the agreement.

In spite of our repeated demands and advice, the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets are forcing the aggressive nuclear war exercise. As a result, they have frustrated the implementation of the North-South agreement, reversed North-South relations back to its starting point of confrontation, and aggravated the situation to an extreme.

Our people and the People's Army's soldiers cannot hold back the surging hatred and indignation against the U.S. aggressors and their stooges, who ignore our just proposals and patient efforts for peace to conduct the provocative Team Spirit joint military exercise.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught: The Team Spirit joint military exercise conducted annually by the United States in South Korea since 1976, is a preliminary war and nuclear test war to make a preemptive strike on our Republic.

The U.S. imperialist aggressors and the South Korean puppets are conducting the Team Spirit-93 joint military exercise at a time when they are intentionally making the situation tense with the so-called nuclear issue by talking about some kind of special inspections and sanctions. Thus, this military exercise is being conducted in a more grave situation than ever before. It is being conducted to thoroughly carry out a nuclear preemptive strike on the northern half of our Republic. It is also a nuclear attack exercise designed to realize their aggressive ambition.

Currently the U.S. imperialists and their cat's paw have dragged up-to-date fighter planes loaded with nuclear weapons, vessels, and various kinds of nuclear attack means into the Korean peninsula and its neighboring waters on a large-scale. They also mobilized massive forces of aggression including quick reaction deployment forces from the U.S. continent and its U.S. military bases in the Asia and Pacific region including Guam, Hawaii, and Japan. Thus, they are madly carrying out a war exercise against us.

There is no guarantee that U.S. imperialists, extremely arrogant since the collapse of the balance of power in the international arena, will stop at conducting the adventurous Team Spirit-93 joint military exercise with the South Korean puppets. They may follow through on actual fighting by invading our Republic.

Amid the overall situation heading towards detente and peace, the agreement on reconciliation and nonaggression between the North and South and the joint declaration on denuclearization were adopted and effectuated on the Korean peninsula. However, the U.S. imperialists and their cat's paw found fault with our nonexistent nuclear issue and are once again resuming the commotion of the nuclear war exercise that had been suspended last year. This is a military provocation which cannot be justified in any way.

The United States is not only conducting the provocative Team Spirit joint military exercise to attack us, but also is instigating the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] to enforce special inspections on our general military facilities. Further oppressive measures are being taken against our Republic through the power of the United Nations Security Council. Thus, a very insidious political and military purpose may be said to be behind the active commotions of South Korean puppets.

As everyone knows, the IAEA's nuclear inspection on us up until now was conducted smoothly, and the integrity of our Republic's peaceful nuclear policy was clearly proven in the process. Nonetheless, the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets find fault with our nonexistent nuclear issue and conduct the nuclear war exercise while taking aim at us with massive nuclear weapons deployed in South Korea. Moreover, enforcing unjustifiable special inspections or punitive actions on us is a brigandish demand by the aggressors, and is in part a purely deliberate maneuver to isolate and stifle our Republic, the fortress of our socialism, and to trample socialism of our own style centered on the popular masses.

If a large-scale nuclear war exercise to invade the North is conducted in South Korea and the commotion of special inspection on us continues, this will certainly bring about serious military confrontation and conflict in our country. If the fuse of war is ignited on the Korean peninsula, all of the North and South will instantaneously become a sheet of fire. It is needless to say that the Asian people will then suffer damages. Moreover, it will bring about the grave consequence of destroying world peace.

We take this opportunity, in the name of all the Korean people hoping to achieve the country's peace and peaceful reunification, to resolutely denounce the U.S. imperialists and South Korean puppets' provocative Team Spirit-93 joint military exercise which is destroying peace on the Korean peninsula and is endangering the world's security. [shouts of slogans and applause]

Whatever they may do, the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets cannot take our people by surprise. They should clearly know that they cannot touch an inch of land or even a blade of grass in our fatherland, nor can they stifle our socialism.

If the U.S. imperialists and their stooges bring about a new war on this land, our people and People's Army will unanimously rise up, deal an exterminatory blow to the aggressors, and will demonstrate the heroic Korea's dignity and honor. [applause]

Today, our people and the People's Army's soldiers are brimming over with the resolution to defeat the aggressors. They are filled with the firm conviction that if they fight, they will gain a victory without fail.

This is precisely because they uphold the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, the ever-victorious iron-willed commander and genius military strategist, as the supreme commander of our revolutionary Armed Forces. This is also because our people and People's Army's soldiers have the indomitable will to carry out anything directed by the dear leader comrade, even though the heaven collapses and the earth cracks one hundred times. This is because there is the invincible might of our people who are singly-heartedly united around the party and the leader. [applause]

Because our people have the firm conviction and will that as long as there is the supreme commander, victory is with us, our people have defended the chuche-oriented socialism of our own style without budging in the face of the vicious antisocialist offensives by the imperialists' reactionary forces. Our people have glorified the dignity of the chuche-oriented socialism of our own style. Even though the aggressive groups deal a military threat to us by mobilizing enormous armed forces, we are filled with conviction and fighting spirit.

As long as there is the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, the ever-victorious iron-willed commander who has the outstanding chuche-oriented strategy and the art of leading the Army and who is the great leader [yongdoja] of our party and our people; and as long as one-being-a-match-for-100 People's Army's soldiers, members of the People's Security Forces, Workers-Peasant Red Guards, and the Young Red Guards, who are indefatigably brought up to be invincible ranks under the party's care, assume the complete combat posture [manbanui chontu chunbi], the defense line of the fatherland is always an invincible fortress. [applause]

We will cope with the enemies' military provocation through the might of single-hearted unity, thereby blowing an indelible defeat to the aggressors. All the party members, working people, and People's Army's soldiers should more thoroughly rally around the great leader and the dear leader comrade. They should assume the complete combat mobilization posture [manbanui chontu tongwon taese] capable of defeating the maneuvers of the U.S. imperialists and their stooges to bring about a new war at a blow. [shouts of slogans and applause]

During the wartime when a volley of bombs dropped, our people produced and supplied ammunitions and foodstuffs. They defeated the enemies with the People's Army's soldiers at burning outposts where a volley of bombs dropped. Thus they defended the sky and land of the fatherland to the end. With such a spirit and valor, our people should tensely and militantly work and live while upholding hammers and sickles in one hand and guns in the other.

All soldiers of the People's Army and the People's Security Forces and all members of the Workers-Peasant Red Guards and the Young Red Guards should deeply realize that the confrontation with the enemies precisely means the confrontation of strength and that victory and failure in a fight depend upon the political, ideological, and technological preparations of soldiers holding guns. Following the examples of hero Kim Chin of the 1930's, hero (Yi Su-pok) of the 1950's, and heroes Kim Kwang-chol and Han Yong-chol of the 1990's, they should more firmly hold guns to reliably defend the safety of the party, the leader, the fatherland, and the people.

Our socialist fatherland precisely means the great leader and the dear leader comrade; the great leader and the dear leader comrade precisely mean our socialist fatherland. [applause]

No aggressor can take away the socialist system of our own style centered on the popular masses and our socialist fatherland. Moreover, the socialist system of our own style centered on the popular masses and our socialist fatherland cannot be deprived.

If the enemies daringly aggravate our socialist fatherland, our people and the officers and men of the People's Army will all become rifles and bombs in destroying the enemies to advocate and protect the great leader and the dear comrade leader by sacrificing their lives. They will also defend our precious socialist system as firm as a rock.

The South Korean youth, students, and people from all walks of life who are seething with patriotic blood should resolutely oppose and denounce the brigandish nuclear war exercise by the U.S. imperialists and their cat's paw. They should further resolutely and vigorously launch into the struggle to withdraw U.S. forces and nuclear weapons from South Korea.

As long as our people and officers and men of the People's Army highly uphold the dear Comrade Kim Chong-il—the supreme commander of our revolutionary force; follow him to the end; and firmly defend socialism of our own style centered on the popular masses, our party's cause and our socialist cause will be invincible. [applause]

As our people fought and were victorious in the past, they will be victorious in the future without fail through advance by tightly uniting around the great leader and the dear comrade leader as firm as a rock. [applause]

With unshakable confidence in victory, let's all uphold the leadership of the party and the leader with loyalty and filial piety and single-heartedness. Also, let us all the more vigorously fight for the fatherland's independent and peaceful reunification and complete victory in socialist cause. [shouts of slogans and applause]

NODONG SINMUN Denounces Team Spirit Exercise

SK0903041093 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0015 GMT 9 Mar 93

[NODONG SINMUN 9 March special article: "Dangerous Exercise for Attack Operations Designed To Launch a Surprise Preemptive Strike"]

[Text] The U.S. imperialists have started the Team Spirit joint military exercise with the South Korean puppets despite the strong protest and denunciation of the Korean people and peace-loving people all over the world. U.S. imperialist forces of aggression occupying

South Korea and the puppet forces have already entered into a combat posture, and the troops of the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps based in the U.S. mainland and the Pacific have sneaked into South Korea and been deployed.

Every time they conduct the Team Spirit joint military exercise, the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppet clique babble that it is an annual defense exercise. This is a shameless maneuver to deceive public opinion by concealing the fact that the military exercise is aggressive and offensive.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught: The Team Spirit joint military exercise, which the United States has conducted in South Korea every year since 1976 as though an annual event, is a preliminary war and test nuclear war designed to launch a preemptive strike on the northern half of our Republic.

The Team Spirit joint military exercise is a byproduct of the U.S. aggressive strategy toward Asia and the Pacific and its policy toward Korea. It is also an adventurous exercise for attack operations and a test nuclear war designed to launch a preemptive strike on the northern half of our Republic.

The U.S. imperialists' policy toward Korea is aimed at holding South Korea as its colonial, military base and as its forward nuclear base so as to establish rule over all of Korea using South Korea as a springboard. While the U.S. imperialists are trying to instill the wind of liberalization and reform in the northern half of the Republic on one hand to ensure that our socialist system crumbles from within, on the other hand, they are trying to set fire to full-scale nuclear war on the Korean peninsula.

The U.S. imperialists are using the Team Spirit joint military exercise as a base for implementing such a military strategy of strength. How aggressive and offensive the Team Spirit joint military exercise is can be seen in the scale and composition of mobilized troops, mobilized military materiel, and contents of this exercise. In addition to the approximately 40,000 U.S. troops occupying South Korea, several tens of thousands of U.S. troops based in the U.S. mainland, Hawaii, Guam Island, Japan proper, Okinawa, and other places are deployed every year for the joint military exercise. The entire South Korean Army, Navy, Air Force and their branches are mobilized, and all chains of command at almost all division-level and corps-level units have been participating in the exercise.

As soon as the military exercise started, almost one million puppet troops, a massive force, went into combat position, and even such paramilitary forces as the Homeland Reserve Forces and the Civil Defense Corps have been mobilized for the operations.

Moreover, the high-ranking officers of the Japanese Self-Defense Forces are participating in the joint operations in South Korea under the pretext of observation. This proves that the Team Spirit joint military exercise whose launching and supply bases are the United States and Japan, whose operational stage is South Korea and its surrounding waters, and whose target for attack is the northern half of our republic, is in fact the triangular joint operational exercise of the United States, Japan, and South Korea, and a large-scale act of war mobilizing millions of troops.

Whenever the U.S. imperialists conduct the Team Spirit joint military exercise, they not only bring in as much as one million tons of equipment and military supplies, mobilizing even the cargo planes deployed for the European region, but spend $500 million for this war exercise. Mobilized in this war exercise are modern strike means, including nuclear weapons, mobile means, reconnaissance means, and commanding means, along with hundreds of various types of warships including aircraft-carriers, thousands of aircrafts including strategic bombers and fighter-bombers, and modern combat equipment including missiles, guns, tanks, and armored vehicles.

A characteristic feature in this year's Team Spirit-93 joint military exercise is the massive mobilization of the planes and missiles which are said to have demonstrated their excellent performance in the Persian Gulf war. The Team Spirit joint military exercise consistently conducts offensive actions of charging into the area of the opponent, in landing exercises, river-crossing operations, and commando operations. It mobilizes all ground and aerial strike means based on the principle of aerial and ground warfare. Infiltrating the ground and air mobile forces deep into the opponent's area, they mainly conduct offensive operations by waging attacks on the front, deep into the opponent's area.

All these facts show that the Team Spirit joint military exercise is one whole [ongun hanaui] act of war aimed at waging a preemptive strike on the northern half of the republic.

The adventurous and offensive nature of the Team Spirit joint military exercise is revealed by the fact that it is a test nuclear war exercise aimed at waging an all-out nuclear attack on the northern half of our republic. The U.S. imperialists formulated a nuclear war plan targeting our country as early as some 30 years ago and turned South Korea into the largest nuclear base in the Far East with the deployment of some 1,000 nuclear weapons of various types.

Using nuclear weapons in Korea is the U.S. policy. The three-day war strategy which the U.S. imperialists worked out, is a short-term strategy aimed at bringing about swift results from waging a preemptive strike on us and also a nuclear war plan. In the Team Spirit joint military exercise, the U.S. imperialists are mobilizing the U.S. Strategic Command whose basic task is commanding nuclear war, an EA-4B nuclear command plane, the battle aircraft group of the U.S. Seventh Fleet, which is said to be a moving nuclear base, the B-52 strategic bombers, which is one of the three pillars of the

U.S. strategic nuclear armed forces, the F-16 and F-15 nuclear carrying fighter-bombers, and the Lance missiles capable of firing neutron bombs.

It is no secret that whenever the U.S. imperialists conduct the Team Spirit joint military exercise, they conduct a nuclear-firing and nuclear bomb-dropping exercise with 155-mm howitzers, strategic bombers, fighter-bombers, and various types of missiles, conduct nuclear bomb dropping exercises in the ground attack, landing, and river-crossing exercises, and conduct demolition and harassing tactics against the rear area of the opponent side by having the Green Beret commando units carry nuclear knapsacks. Moreover, it has been exposed that the U.S. imperialists have deployed a nuclear plan operations unit which analyzes their nuclear attack targets in South Korea [as heard], sets up a plan to fire nuclear weapons, and prepares an urgent nuclear plan, and a nuclear rapid deployment unit which manages nuclear weapons, maintains round-the-clock combat readiness, and is capable of taking off within five minutes carrying nuclear weapons in bombers in case of emergency, and have formulated the combined operation plan 5027 aimed at a preemptive nuclear attack on the northern half of the republic. This manifests the adventurous and offensive nature of the Team Spirit joint military exercise as a test nuclear war exercise.

The adventurous and offensive nature of the Team Spirit joint military exercise is clearly revealed by the fact that it is a war exercise aimed at realizing the mobilization, assembly, and deployment of armed forces in a wicked and treacherous way and ensuring a surprise [puruisong] attack.

Since 1976, the U.S. imperialists have conducted the Team Spirit joint military exercise every year. While conducting this exercise, they have completed preparations to rapidly deploy massive U.S. forces and military materiel from the U.S. mainland and the Pacific to the Korean peninsula. Under circumstances in our country in which massive forces are acutely confronting each other along the Military Demarcation Line, concentrating massive forces under the pretext of a military exercise and mapping out operational formations favorable for attacks would complete a strategic deployment for northward aggression. This shows that the U.S. imperialists have been mobilizing, concentrating, and deploying forces, important courses in carrying out a military strategy, in a secret manner behind the curtain of the war exercise.

The attempt by the enemy to launch a surprise attack is shown by the fact that the enemy has been very vigorously propagandizing that the Team Spirit joint military exercise is not dangerous because it is an annual exercise.

They repeatedly conduct the same military exercise at a time when the two sides are confronting each other militarily. This is a strategic, deceptive act designed to make the opposing side slacken its vigilance.

They are trying to slacken our vigilance under the pretext that the Team Spirit joint military exercise is an annual military exercise. Also, they have brought in, concentrated, and deployed massive forces of aggression and war materiel. Under these circumstances, they are trying to turn the military exercise into an actual war designed to launch a surprise attack against us after finding an excuse.

In actuality, even while conducting the Team Spirit joint military exercise, the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets are kicking up commotions concerning special inspections and bringing the situation of the Korean peninsula into a dangerous phase. This makes us have the greatest vigilance.

Aggression and war are the imperialists' way of survival. Finding that their peaceful transition strategy does not work out the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets are recklessly maneuvering to obliterate our Republic by force of arms.

Our people and our revolutionary Armed Forces are keenly watching with high revolutionary vigilance the Team Spirit-93 joint military exercise by the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets and their special inspection commotion. The U.S. imperialists and the South Korean rulers should look straight at realities and should act discreetly.

The U.S. imperialists should relive how the myth of their powerfulness was broken before our young People's Army during the war of aggression against Korea in the past. Now is not the 1950s, but the 1990s. Our people are not the ones of 40 years ago.

If the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean rulers ignite the fuse of war of aggression, miscalculating our peace-loving policy and patience as our weakness, no good result will be provided to them.

7 Mar Team Spirit Military Activities Noted

SK0903054993 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0451 GMT 9 Mar 93

[Text] Pyongyang, March 9 (KCNA)—The U.S. imperialist aggressors on March 7 let fly "B-1B" nuclear strategic bomber from the Anderson Airforce Base in Guam to the sky above South Korea for a nuclear bomb dropping exercise aimed at a nuclear preemptive strike at the northern half of Korea, according to military sources.

Timing to coincide with this, a warship group of the extra-large carrier "Independence" and a warship group of the nuclear-powered missile cruiser "California" moved that day toward the East Sea of Korea to participate in the aggressive "Team Spirit 93" joint military exercises.

NODONG SINMUN Comments on Team Spirit

SK0903110693 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1044 GMT 9 Mar 93

["Dangerous Offensive War Game Aimed at Surprise 'Preemptive Strike'"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, March 9 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN in an article today brands the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises of the U.S. and the South Korean authorities as an adventurous drill of offensive operation and a test nuclear war aimed at a surprise "preemptive strike" at the northern half of Korea.

The author of the article says:

The "Team Spirit" program consists of offensive actions for advancing into the area of the adversary such as landing, river-crossing and "commando" operations, with the main stress on the offensive operation for making simultaneous attacks on the front and in the depths by mobilizing all the means of ground and air strikes and infiltrating ground and air mobile units into the depths of the other side. This proves that the "Team Spirit" joint military rehearsal is one whole war action aimed at a "preemptive strike" at the northern half of Korea.

The adventurous and offensive nature of the "Team Spirit" as a test nuclear war was brought into bolder relief when it was disclosed that the United States had deployed a "nuclear planning and operation unit" which "analyses targets of nuclear strike" and maps out a "nuclear-launching plan" and "urgent nuclear plan" and a "nuclear quick reaction unit" which controls nuclear weapons and is capable of going into action with bomber carrying nuclear weapons in five minutes in "case of emergency", keeping itself on a war footing round the clock and has completed "integrated operational plan-5027" for a nuclear "preemptive strike" at the North.

The U.S. and the South Korean authorities intend to turn "Team Spirit" war game into a real war against the North by surprise by inventing some pretexts after massing large aggression forces and war supplies under cloak of an annual military rehearsal.

In actuality, they are driving the situation on the Korean peninsula to the dangerous phase by launching a campaign for a "special inspection" along with the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises.

But the U.S. and South Korean rulers must squarely see the reality and act with discretion.

If the U.S. and the South Korean rulers unleash a war of aggression, misjudging our peace loving policy and patience as weakness, the consequences will never be good for them.

NODONG SINMUN Condemns Imperial 'Arbitrariness'

SK0903104393 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1015 GMT 9 Mar 93

["NODONG SINMUN Calls for End to Imperialist Arbitrariness"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang March 9 (KCNA)—The arbitrariness of contemporary imperialism must not be tolerated any longer, and to smash it is an important task facing the progressive mankind at present, says NODONG SINMUN in an article today.

Noting that the arbitrariness of contemporary imperialists at present has reached its extremes, the author of the article says:

It is concentrically manifested, above all, in military aspects.

The imperialists are brandishing their big sticks at random, describing the change in the east-west balance of forces as a "victory" of their policy of strength.

They now intend to contain all the countries and nations by military power and bring the whole world under their domination.

They are gravely threatening the DPRK with outcries for "special inspection", taking issue with its nuclear policy. This well shows to what extent their brigandism and arrogance have gone.

The United States has resumed the "Team Spirit" maneuvers on the pretext of "nuclear suspicion" against the North, openly revealing its intention to risk any military adventure.

The arbitrariness of modern imperialism finds manifestation also in the political domain.

Claiming their leadership in world politics, the contemporary imperialists are trying to play the role of "judge" in dealing with international affairs.

Some imperialist states boss the show by abusing their privileged position in the United Nations, forcing it to adopt wrong resolutions contrary to international justice.

The imperialists impose their unreasonable political demand upon others and try to wring the necks of the disobedient countries by putting economic pressure upon them. When all the progressive countries firmly defend their independence and fight in unity, the imperialists will prove impotent and a new progress will be made in the establishment of equitable international relations and in the democratization of the international community.

NODONG SINMUN: South Amnesty 'Insignificant'

SK0903055693 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0516 GMT 9 Mar 93

["NODONG SINMUN on Seamy Side of 'Amnesty' of South Korean Authorities"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, March 9 (KCNA)—The new South Korean "regime" is loudly advertising the "amnesty" procaimed on March 6 as "biggest amnesty ever in history" and "an unprecedented amnesty measure." But it is too insignificant an "amnesty." So says NODONG SINMUN in a commentary today.

The analyst notes:

Not many people were released by the "amnesty" and a great many democratic figures who rose against the military fascist dictatorship are still behind bars.

This shows that the South Korean authorities are ungenerous in clearing away the crimes committed under the "fifth and sixth republics" and does not become the "civilian politics" advertised by them.

If they wanted to attach a political significance to the "amnesty" worth its name, it should not have been merely for the reputation of the new "regime." If it was an "amnesty measure" taken in the name of the "civilian government," they should have released all the political prisoners by way of atoning for the victims to the fascist repressive rule in the past.

Still more regrettable is the attitude of the South Korean authorities towards the figures who have been imprisoned under unreasonable charges of contact with the North. It is anachronistic for them to still keep many figures in prisons under the "national security law," a legacy of the military fascist dictatorship.

If the South Korean authorities have the willingness to solve the question of reunification peacefully from a truly new stand, they should have considered the "amnesty" also from the viewpoint of great national unity.

To talk about "civilian politics" and reunification, while leaving behind bars those who did a righteous work for democratic freedom and rights and national reunification sounds to the people as a lie.

The South Korean authorities should show with action their will and posture for national unity and reunification by releasing all the political prisoners including democratic figures unconditionally and without delay.

NODONG SINMUN Criticizes ROK 'Total Wage System'

SK0803151493 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1506 GMT 8 Mar 93

["'Total Wage System' Wrings Necks of South Korean Workers"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, March 8 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN in an article today notes that the "total wage system" enforced by the South Korean authorities last year is a criminal device which wrings the necks of the workers.

The author of the article says:

The "total wage system" was invented by the South Korean authorities to exploit the workers more harshly and fatten themselves by misleading the public with the allegation that the South Korean economic woes were attributable to the increased pay to the workers.

The "total wage system" means to divide by twelve the annual total wage plus various kinds of allowances and bonuses and increase the wage by less than five percent of the monthly pay based on it.

The basic wage paid to the South Korean workers accounts for 60.3 percent, the lowest in the world. With the introduction of the "total wage system" the South Korean authorities have kept the basic wages, allowances and bonuses to the workers on a lower level.

Considering constantly soaring prices in South Korea, it is a criminal act of mercilessly wringing the workers' necks for the authorities to force the "total wage system" whereby to raise the wages of workers by less than five percent.

After the enforcement of this system the employers are getting more open in keeping workers' wages in arrears for months. In the first eight months of last year following its introduction, some 190 companies have not paid wages to the workers. Even according to drastically curtailed figures released by the authorities, the unpaid wages amount to 91 billion won.

Still more grave is the fact that the South Korean authorities and comprador capitalists, like a thief crying "stop thief!", are harshly cracking down on the workers who demand the payment of wages in arrears and oppose the "total wage system".

They can never be targets of repression.

Daily Denounces South's 'Flunkeyist' Actions

SK0703110193 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0017 GMT 7 Mar 93

[NODONG SINMUN 7 Mar special article: "Collusion With Outside Force Is a Heinous Flunkeyist Act"]

[Text] An atmosphere of peace and peaceful reunification on the Korean peninsula, which has smoothly developed, was shattered. The situation on the Korean peninsula is returning to a dangerous phase of confrontation and brink of war before the North-South agreement was adopted. This totally stemmed from the South Korean authorities' antinational flunkeyist act.

As it has been exposed, the South Korean ruling circles are conducting the Team Spirit-93 joint military exercise with the U.S. imperialists by all means despite public opinion from within and without which strongly protests and denounces the exercise. As everyone knows, the Team Spirit joint military exercise is a large-scale nuclear war exercise designed to invade the North with South Korea as a stage—in which various kinds of nuclear weapons; nuclear means; ultramodern military equipment; and an enormous armed force, which are deployed in the area around South Korea and the U.S. mainland—are mobilized.

The commotion over the Team Spirit-93 war exercise so extremely aggravated the situation on the Korean peninsula that no one can predict what will eventually happen. The South Korean ruling circles, while talking about the North's nuclear issue, are trying to justify the Team Spirit joint military exercise. However, it is nothing but a brazen sophistry to cover up the antinational true color of the South Korean ruling circles who attempt to accomplish a dishonest purpose at the cost of setting greater store by the collusion with outside forces than the reconciliation with compatriots, suffocating the North's socialism, and entrusting the entire nation to foreign domination.

The issue of our country's reunification is a matter to realize the nation's independence throughout the country and to achieve the nation's reconciliation and unity. The agreement and the joint declaration on denuclearization, which the North and the South adopted and effectuated, contains our people's firm will to resolve the issue of the fatherland's reunification without relying on any outside force but with the strength of the nation's main force.

If the North-South agreement is to be implemented sincerely, we should have a correct stance to realize the nation's independence by achieving the fatherland's reunification and thoroughly maintain an independent stance to solve all the problems with the strength of main force. The principles of the nation's independence are the fundamental principles which we should firmly maintain in implementing the North-South agreement and realizing the cause of the fatherland's reunification. The important problem currently arising in holding on to the principles of the nation's independence are not to rely on outside force but to depend on the force of the nation's independence. We should not commit an act such as regarding the collusion with outside forces as of greater importance than the unity with compatriots of the same blood, in particular.

Our country and nation are divided into the North and the South. Under such circumstances, if one party relies on the strength of outside forces and allows interference by outside forces, it is a stance to pursue confrontation but not a stance to achieve reunification through reconciliation and unity. If one side relies on outside forces, the North and the South cannot hold a dialogue in trust, and the North-South agreement also cannot be implemented sincerely. Even after the agreement was adopted, nevertheless, the South Korean authorities do not dismiss the old way of thinking trying to rely on outside forces yet.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught:

If we depend upon outside forces to solve the question of our country's reunification, we cannot correctly solve it in conformity with our people's interest. However, the South Korean persons in power continue to cling to the traitorous policy of relying on outside forces to retain their power.

The South Korean authorities, even while holding dialogues with compatriots, have tried to fathom the U.S. master's views on them first. When the United States did not agree to them gladly, even after the South Korean authorities formulated all the documents of agreement with compatriots, they chose to go back on all promises they made with compatriots and all pledges they made before the nation.

The U.S. president, who flew to South Korea after the North-South agreement was adopted, said that it was a reckless action, asking South Korea to shelve the implementation of the agreement. Then, the South Korean authorities gave in to the president's suggestion. After holding the party-government consultative meeting, they, while taking up the North's nonexistent nuclear issue, officially declared that it is their policy not to hasten the implementation of the agreement. It was known that after this declaration, they made the nuclear issue a precondition for progress in North-South relations and announced that they would suspend the implementation of the agreement.

Even after the agreement was adopted and effectuated, they made a collusion with outside forces and aggravated the situation with the commotion over a large-scale war exercise. Furthermore, they canceled all North-South dialogues and laid artificial obstacles in the way of implementing the agreement.

As it has been known, the South Korean authorities declared last year that they would suspend the Team Spirit war exercise. Under an excuse of filling a military vacuum that its suspension may result in, however, they have almost everyday made a commotion of large-scale war exercises for northward invasion, including Focus Lens, a joint aerial strike exercise, Eagle, and Hwarang, thus extremely straining the situation and creating a grave obstacle in the way of North-South dialogues and the implementation of the agreement.

They particularly announced the resumption of the Team Spirit joint military exercise with the U.S. imperialists despite our repeated warnings and drove North-South dialogues into a frozen state by conducting the military exercise. All facts show that a flunkeyist spirit, which set greater store by the collusion with outside forces than the reconciliation with compatriots, took hold of the South Korean authorities to the marrow.

That the South Korean ruling circles are resuming the Team Spirit joint military exercise with the United States is for them an intention to do harm to compatriots by employing the strength of outside forces. It is also designed to accomplish their dishonest purpose at the cost of entrusting all of Korea to U.S. colonial domination. This is an antinational criminal act which is forever indelible. This kind of act by the South Korean ruling circles arouses great indignation of all the Korean people who regard the nation's dignity as a life.

The nation's independent reunification is the people's unanimous long-cherished desire. Since the North-South agreement was adopted and effectuated, the nation's aspiration for the nation's independent reunification has became the prevailing trend that cannot be stopped. The South Korean people will never tolerate the flunkeyist actions of the South Korean ruling circles, who regard the collusion with outside forces as of greater importance than reconciliation and unity with compatriots, and who are even playing with fire by conducting a nuclear war exercise against compatriots.

Possible Japanese Constitutional Revision Opposed

SK0903023893 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0000 GMT 9 Mar 93

[Text] Recently Japanese political circles have openly raised the issue of revising Japan's postwar constitution. In response to a question on this issue from a Korean Central News Agency reporter on 8 March, A DPRK Foreign Ministry spokesman gave the following answer:

According to reports, heated debates have been under way within Japanese political circles over correlations between Japan's so-called international contribution and the present Japanese Constitution. Not too long ago the Japanese Foreign Ministry said openly that it is a good thing for Japan to strengthen its military contribution to the United Nations, possibly by revising its constitution.

A research council of Japan's Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] sent a report to Prime Minister Miyazawa. The report asked strongly that the government reinterpret the constitution. Moreover, the chairman of the LDP's political affairs research council called for forming an office for cooperation between the ruling and opposition parties to deal with the Diet's revision of the constitution.

As a result, the LDP recently decided to form a constitution research council directly under its president; select points of the constitution—liable to examination—by the end of the current Diet session; and ask the opposition to join in a debate on conclusions as soon as they are made.

The Korean people and peace-loving people all over the world are very worried and wary about these remarks and moves made by the Japanese political circles.

As the entire world knows, Japan has a criminal history of militarism which inflicted unbearable misfortunes and calamities on the Korean people in particular and on Asian people in general. Even without admitting or liquidating its past crimes, Japan, a country that has that kind of history, intends to revise the provisions of the postwar constitution, which renounce war and prohibit the use of force in war and other international disputes. This is motivated by its anachronistic perception that it should follow in the footsteps of the former militarists. It is clear that this reveals its attempt to restore its old dream of the Greater East Asia Co-prosperity Sphere by legally sending troops overseas.

This is an insult to the Korean and Asian people, victims of past Japanese militarist aggression. It also poses a big threat to global peace and security.

Japan must not disturb world peace and security by revising the constitution and thus reviving militarism by sending troops overseas. Rather, it must make a contribution to the international community by admitting and clearly liquidating its past crimes.

Economic Group Meets With Cuban Deputy Premier

SK0703025893 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1500 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Text] Lionel Soto, member of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee and vice president of the Republic of Cuba Council of Ministers, on 1 March met with the DPRK Government economic delegation led by External Economy Commission Chairman Yi Song-tae. They conversed in a friendly atmosphere at the meeting.

Committee Concludes Cuban Visit

SK0703030393 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1500 GMT 5 Mar 93

[Text] Our country's government economic delegation led by Yi Song-tae, chairman of the External Economic Committee, returned home on 5 March by plane after visiting Cuba. Han Su-kil, vice chairman of the External Economic Committee, and Cuban Republic's ambassador to our country met the delegation at the airport.

Banquet on Anniversary of Castro Visit Arranged

SK0903060993 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0501 GMT 9 Mar 93

[Text] Pyongyang, March 9 (KCNA)—The international department of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of

Korea [WPK] and the DPRK Foreign Ministry arranged a banquet Monday to mark the 7th anniversary of the visit to Korea by Comrade Fidel Castro, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, president of the Council of State and president of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Cuba.

Speaking at the banquet, Kim Yong-nam, member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee, vice-premier of the administration council and foreign minister, said that the visit to Korea by Comrade Fidel Castro seven years ago was a momentous event in strengthening and developing to a new, higher stage the friendly and cooperative relations between the two peoples.

"Though the international political situation remains complicated and many changes have taken place on the globe, the two peoples have firmly united and supported and closely cooperated with each other and deepened the bonds of solidarity in the spirit agreed upon at the meetings and talks between the respected leader Comrade Kim Il-song and respected Comrade Fidel Castro," he said.

Noting that the successful elections which were held in Cuba some time ago demonstrated the united might of the Cuban people who are advancing under the leadership of the Communist Party of Cuba, he said: "We rejoice as over our own over the great advance made by the fraternal Cuban people in the efforts to develop the economy and strengthen the defence capabilities in the 'special period of the peace time' in response to the decisions of the fourth Congress of the Communist Party and express firm solidarity with the Cuban people in their just cause."

He declared that the Korean people would strengthen and develop the friendship and solidarity with the Cuban people down through generations and fight shoulder to shoulder with the fraternal Cuban people all the time in the common struggle for independence against imperialism and for socialism.

Cuban Ambassador to Korea Juan Jose Leon Vega said in his speech that the tight hug of Comrade Fidel with the great leader of the Korean people Comrade Kim Il-song seven years ago was a hug between two great men and between two great peoples and it will remain recorded forever in Korea-Cuba friendship.

"The talks between the two leaders and their exchange of views on most important problems made the intimacy between the great leader of the Korean people Comrade Kim Il-song and our Supreme Commander Comrade Fidel more solid, more beautiful and deeper rooted," the ambassador said.

"This will remain alive forever in the hearts of the Cuban and Korean peoples, though the time flows and the generation of the revolution changes.

"We are firmly convinced that Korea guided by Comrade Kim Il-song and Comrade Kim Chong-il will smash the manoeuvres of the enemy, though the imperialist enemies resort to all manner of moves against the DPRK," he said, and added:

"We denounce the 'Team Spirit' exercises, a test nuclear war against the northern half of the republic, and strongly demand the withdrawal of the U.S. troops from South Korea."

MINJU CHOSON Marks Visit Anniversary

SK0903104893 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1019 GMT 9 Mar 93

[Text] Pyongyang, March 9 (KCNA)—MINJU CHOSON today dedicates an article to the 7th anniversary of the Korean visit of the respected leader of the Cuban people Comrade Fidel Castro.

The treaty of friendship and cooperation signed during the Korean visit of the Cuban party and government delegation led by Comrade Fidel Castro in March 1986 marked an epochal occasion in strengthening and developing the traditional relations of friendship and cooperation between the Koreac and Cuban peoples to a new higher stage, the author of the article says, and goes on:

The friendly and cooperative relations between the peoples of Korea and Cuba forged on the road of the anti-imperialist struggle have been expanded and developed in recent years in the spirit and idea of the treaty of friendship and cooperation.

The Korean people highly estimate the vigorous struggle of the Cuban people to defend socialism upholding the banner of anti-imperialist struggle even under the difficult conditions and extend firm solidarity to their just struggle.

The Korean people who set store by the friendship and solidarity with the fraternal Cuban people will always stand firm on the side of the Cuban people on the basis of the idea of independence, peace and friendship in the future, too.

The Korean people wish the Cuban people greater success in their struggle to defend the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country and peace and stability in Central America and Caribbean region.

SPA Delegation Returns From Middle East Visit

SK0703024993 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1500 GMT 5 Mar 93

[Text] The delegation of our country's Supreme People's Assembly [SPA] led by Chairman Yang Hyong-sop returned home on 5 March by plane after visiting Pakistan, Iran, Jordan, and Syria. Paek In-chun, SPA vice chairman, and the Syrian ambassador to our country met the delegation at the airport.

Upswing in Light Industrial Production Noted

SK0903105093 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1026 GMT 9 Mar 93

[Text] Pyongyang, March 9 (KCNA)—An upswing has been reported in light industrial production in Korea.

The Pyongyang Textile Combine, the Pyongyang Cornstarch Factory, the Sinuiju Footwear Factory, the Sinuiju Cosmetic Factory, the Kaesong Footwear Factory, the Kaesong Insam (Ginseng) Processing Factory, and many other light industrial factories across the country are overfulfilling their daily assignments in March after topping the February target.

Textile output is on the steady increase at the Pyongyang textile combine, a leading textile producer of the country. It carried out the February plan at 120 percent by operating the equipment in full capacity.

The Pyongyang Cornstarch Factory hit its February target at 102 percent. Entering maych it is keeping on a high level the producton of various foodstuffs including starch, millet jelly, glucose, drops, cakes and mono sodium glutamate.

A sharp rise in production has been reported from factories under the general bureau of footwear industry.

The Hyesan, Yanggang Province, footwear factory produced 30,000 more pairs and the Kaesong footwear factory 60,000 more pairs of shoes in February than in the same month of last year.

The light industry, which has developed in an all-round way, relying on domestic material resources, has enermous potential to meet diverse demands for mass consumer goods such as fabrics, foodstuffs, shoes, household utensils, articles for cultural use and daily necessities.

Korea has favourable conditiocs for developing light industry.

Harmoniously distributed are large-scale centrally-controlled light industrial factories producing cornstarch, textiles, garments, daily necessities and pottery and porcelain [word indistinct] seats and industrial centres and an average of 25 local industrial factories in cities and counties.

And daily necessaries shops and workteams have been formed at all enterprises to briskly produce consumer goods.

With the rapid development of the chemical industry, synthetic fibre, synthetic resin, basic chemical products and other raw materials needed for the development of the light industry are supplied sufficiently.

KCNA Notes 8 Mar International Women's Day

SK0903011593 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1515 GMT 8 Mar 93

[Text] Pyongyang, March 8 (KCNA)—The Korean women are significantly greeting the March 8 international women's day in their worthy life turning one of the wheels of the revolution.

The great leader President Kim Il-song has said: "Today our women, as legitimate masters of the country, participate in public life and successfully carry out their duties for the motherland and people and do well the work suitable for them for society."

After liberation President Kim Il-song proclaimed the law on equality of the sexes on July 30, 1946 so that the Korean women could work and live with equal rights with men.

The state ensures adequate conditions for the women to freely participate in the social and political activities.

All the women have the rights to elect and to be elected. They participate in political activities, elected deputies to the Supreme People's Assembly and power bodies of other levels. [sentence as received]

Women hold 20.1 percent of the 687 deputies to the Supreme People's Assembly. Many women work at responsible posts in various fields such as the party and state organs, administrative and economic bodies and in the domains of science, culture and art, health care and the press.

The state takes care of women so they may work without any inconvenience.

Women workers with three children or more work six hours a day, receiving wages for eight hours. Women are banned from difficult and toilsome work.

Best furnished nurseries and kindergartens are operating at the expenses of the state everywhere women work.

The state grants to the women fully paid maternity leave.

When the women in the North are leading a blooming life under the care of the state; the South Korean women are living a downtrodden life.

The South Korean women are denied political rights and are subject to serious discrimination in working conditions.

Most of the women are left jobless and the employed women are under a constant threat of dismissal.

The South Korean newspaper HANGYORE SINMUN reported that 60 percent of the women workers are forced to work 10 to 14 hours a day, their wages being a half of those of male workers doing the same work.

They are less than one-third or one-fifth of the minimum cost of living.

The employment rate of the women graduates from universities and colleges is below one percent.

Women are treated as a means of money-making in South Korea, their human rignts ruthlessly violated.

Some women are forced to be mermaids at aquariums while others serve as manikins to eke out a living.

Women are robbed of their youth at over 18,000 houses of redlight districts.

At least 600,000 women have been kidnapped and sold off to brothels by human traders under the patronage of the authorities.

No wonder the magazine CHUGAN HANGUK said the South Korean women have "no social rights and status nor freedom of bringing up children".

South Korea

Minister Seeks PRC Role in DPRK Nuclear Issue

SK0903091993 Seoul YONHAP in English 0900 GMT 9 Mar 93

[Text] Seoul, March 9 (YONHAP)—Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu called Tuesday for "constructive" participation by China in the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), nudging Beijing to help get North Korea to accept special nuclear inspections.

Han, receiving a courtesy visit by Chinese Ambassador to Seoul Zhang Tingyan, stressed that China had an important role to play in the IAEA. Zhang explained that his country did not want proliferation of nuclear weapons and that Beijing hoped to contribute to peace on the Korean peninsula.

The ambassador mentioned a coming visit by Foreign Minister Qian Qichen, agreed on between the two countries in January. Qian is expected to visit Seoul in the first half of the year. Han also received a courtesy call from Russian Ambassador Alexander Panov, who called for speedy resolution of pending bilateral issues.

Panov said Moscow was trying to resolve all unsettled issues such as full investigation into the 1983 downing of a Korean passenger plane by a Russian fighter. He urged Seoul in exchange to resume the economic aid program to Russia, on hold since disintegration of the Soviet Union.

PRC Reportedly Not To Support DPRK in Security Council

SK0903091293 Seoul YONHAP in English 0856 GMT 9 Mar 93

[Text] Beijing, March 9 (YONHAP)—China is now persuading North Korea to accept the International Atomic Energy Agency's special inspections of its two nuclear facilities near Yongbyon before the March 25 deadline, a Western source here said Tuesday.

The source said that discussions of the North Korean nuclear issue with the United States and South Korea had awakened China to the realization that it might pose a grave threat to the peace and security of Northeast Asia. This had prompted Beijing to prod Pyongyang to accept the special inspections, he added.

China was worried that North Korea could find itself in a very difficult international situation if the matter were taken up by the United Nations security council as a result of its refusal to accept the IAEA's request, he said.

Beijing had warned Pyongyang, through North Korean Ambassador Chu Chang-chun, what would happen if it continued to refuse the request and advised its neighbor that China would not support North Korea in the security council, he said.

This is a significant change in China's policy on the nuclear issue. Officially, China has never gone beyond saying that the nuclear issue must be solved through consultations between the parties directly involved. The Western source said that South Korea had asked China to play a positive role in solving the North Korean nuclear issue, noting that it had grown beyond a regional problem to a global one.

The United States has also warned that North Korea's continued refusal of the IAEA's special inspection request would result in economic sanctions.

North Korea sticks by its refusal to allow special inspections because it wants a nuclear weapon to protect the kingdom of Kim Il- song and his heir apparent, Kim Chong-il, and to calm the military's complaints about the situation that North Korea is in, the source said.

The North Korean nuclear issue will probably have a clue to its solution only at the 11th hour, when the United Nations is about to take sanctions, he predicted.

Former Minister Reportedly To Be Named Envoy to U.S.

SK0903071193 Seoul YONHAP in English 0606 GMT 9 Mar 93

[By Yi Tong-min]

[Text] Seoul, March 9 (YONHAP)—Trade diplomacy and professionalism, and ousting political appointees are the key features of 28 ambassadorial reassignments currently in the works. Important postings are expected to include former Trade and Industry Minister Han Sung-su to the United States, ex-ruling party lawmaker Hwang Pyong-tae to China, and director of Institute of Foreign Affairs and National Security (IFANS) Kong No-myong to Japan.

Kim Sok-kyu, a researcher with IFANS, will take over the helm at the Korean embassy in Russia from Hong Sun-yong, who has been named vice foreign minister.

Being ousted as ambassadors are four retired military officers whose political appointments were made just months ago. Four others will retire—ambassadors Yi Hong-ku (Britain), Hyon Hong-chu (the United States), Sin Tong-won (Germany) and No Chae-won (China). This reduces the number of political appointees from 18 to 12 with the introduction of Hwang Pyong-tae and Han Sung-su.

"Han's appointment to Washington signifies the growing emphasis on Korea-U.S. trade isues," a Foreign Ministry offical said in a background explanation. A former professor, Han served in economic research posts such as president of the Korea society of international economy and chairman of the Korean trade commission before spending two years as trade and industry minister.

Trade emphasis was also the reason for naming Hwang Pyong-tae to China, but the selection is likely to come under heaviest fire because it is the most political appointment in the list.

"He has wide scope of experiences from his days on the Economic Planning Board and as a lawmaker," the Foreign Ministry official explained. Hwang rose as high as assistant minister for planning and management at the EPB before switching to politics. He was elected to the National Assembly in 1988 and was special aide to President Kim Yong-sam during the reunification Democratic Party days. His name came up often in predicting Kim's cabinet lineup, but inside sources say he was not selected because he is so rich that could taunt Kim's efforts for reform. Inside sources also say that Prime Minister Hwang In-song recommended the former lawmaker for the job.

Efforts at trade diplomacy and professionalization also showed in naming Ho Sung, assistant minister in charge of economic affairs, to Geneva to handle the Uruguay Round negotiations. He headed high profile trade talks with Japan and the United States, including the Seoul-Tokyo action plan and the presidents' economic initiative (PEI) with Washington.

Ho will be replaced by Son Chun-yong, another economic expert who was minister for economic affairs at the embassy in Washington and director-general of the international economic affairs bureau.

Professionalization was the background to naming Kong No-myong, head of IFANS, to Japan. Although he is more famous as Korea's first ambassador to Russia and now as chief inter-Korean nuclear negotiator and prime ministers' talks spokesman, Kong started out as an Asian expert as director-general of the Asian affairs bureau.

Ambassador to Geneva Pak Su-kil replaces Kong, but he is not expected to inherit all of Kong's functions such as nuclear negotiator and spokesman. Foreign Ministry officials most welcome the ousting of military officers, and say they hope their removal will continue.

Key figures, including ambassadors Kim Chwa-su to Bulgaria, Yi Si-yong to Sweden and Han Chol-su to Brazil, and minister to Hamburg Pak Chun-pom, will all be relieved of their posts and replaced by career diplomats.

While Kim and Han served between one and half to two and half years on their assignments, Pak is going just one month after his appointment and Yi after barely two months.

Kim Yong-sam Appoints New Prosecutor General

SK0903021293 Seoul YONHAP in English 0128 GMT 9 Mar 93

[Text] Seoul, March 9 (YONHAP)—President Kim Yong-sam appointed Pak Chong-chol, deputy chief of the Supreme Prosecutor's Office, prosecutor-general Tuesday. Pak, 55, a Taegu native and a 1961 graduate of Seoul National University Law College, has served in major posts in the prosecution since 1964, including chief of the central investigative department at the Supreme Prosecutor's Office.

Meanwhile, a cabinet meeting presided over by Prime Minister Hwang In-song passed a bill for the approval of the appointments of Pak and of Gen. Kim Tong-chin as new Army Chief of Staff. The cabinet also decided to confer outgoing Army Chief of Staff Gen. Kim Chin-yong with the order of diplomatic service merit medal, Gwanghwa.

Prosecutor Seeks Arrest Warrant for Former NSP Director

SK0903113593 Seoul YONHAP in English 1054 GMT 9 Mar 93

[Text] Seoul, March 9 (YONHAP)—The Seoul district prosecutor's office on Tuesday sought an arrest warrant against Chang Se-tong, one-time director of the Agency for National Security Planning (NSP), for his suspected involvement in 1987 violence designed to disrupt the founding of an opposition party.

A prosecution source said it was found out in two days of questioning of Chang that he handed 500 million won to two former lawmakers after they shared the view that "the creation of a new opposition party should be prevented."

The soruce said Chang met the two men, Yi Taek-ton and Yi Taek-hui of the now defunct New Korea Democratic Party (NKDP), four to five times in April 1987 at the NSP's safe houses, during which they resolved to prevent the projected new opposition party from getting inaugurated.

Acting on the decision, the two Lees engineered violence that marred the inaugural meetings of six district chapters of the Reunification Democratic Party [RDP] being created under the leadership of Kim Yong-sam, now the president, and Kim Tae-chung, another opposition leader then.

Chang was suspected of delivering 100 1-million-won checks he withdrew from an NSP bank account to the two lees on April 11, 1987 and 400 million won more afterwards immediately before the violence began to occur.

Chang, however, told prosecutors that it was true he agreed with the two Lees to prevent the new party from coming into being and gave them money for use for the purpose, but insisted he didn't know the two lees would resort to such violent acts by mobilizing hooligans, the source said.

Notwithstanding his allegation, the prosecution suspect that Chang conspired with the two lees to work out detailed action plans to disrupt the RDP's inauguration.

Chang initially insisted that the money he gave to the duo was a reward for information they provided to him. As the prosecution planned to stage cross-questioning between Chang and the two Lees already under arrest, Chang abruptly changed his mind Tuesday afternoon and partially admitted to his involvement in the violence. The planned cross-questioning was put off until a later date.

As to the rumors about possible involvement in the violence by Yi Hae-ku, now home minister and first deputy NSP director at the time of the incident, and Rep. Pak Chol-on, then special assistant to the NSP director, the source said the prosecution excluded the two from the scope of probe because of the absence of any evidence substantiating their involvement.

Saying that the prosecution would not escalate the probe, a prosecution official said all indications are that it was Chang Se-tong's individual wrongdoing without any higher person in its background or any organized involvement by the NSP itself.

The prosecution plans to announce the outcome of its probe within this week to wind up its investigation of the case, the source said.

Said Behind Opposition Fall

SK0703013293 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 7 Mar 93 p 3

[Text] The prosecution, reinvestigating the case of political violence against the founding of an opposition party in 1987, said yesterday that two suspects in the case alleged that Chang Se-tong, then director of the Agency for National Security Planning [NSP], had masterminded the terror. Prosecutors quoted former Reps. Yi Taek-hui and Yi Taek-ton as alleging that Chang had ordered them to conduct the terror campaign against the founding of the now-defunct Reunification Democratic Party (RDP) in April 1987. The two former lawmakers allegedly confessed that they had received the instructions from Chang when they met him just before the incident, prosecutors said.

The prosecution asked Chang to appear at the Seoul prosecution office by 2 p.m. tomorrow. Chang will be questioned about his motive for ordering the violence, and how much money he gave to the two Yis, prosecutors said. The five-day terror campaign was launched against a series of local chapter inauguration rallies by the RDP which was headed by then opposition leaders, Kim Yong-sam and Kim Tae-chung.

Wielding sticks and steel pipes, scores of gangsters led by Kim Yong-nam (nicknamed Yo[illegible]pari) disrupted the inauguration rallies. The two Yi's had been thought to be the force behind the violence. Prosecutors who have tracked down the source of the roughly 100 million won used to pay off the gangsters at the time, suspect that the money came from the NSP. They have also found out that some 300 to 400 million won was withdrawn from the NSP accounts at several banks just one month before the terror case. Prosecutors believe that the money was withdrawn on Chang's order and delivered to the two Yi's after being laundered.

There is also a high possibility that Rep. Pak Chol-on, then special aide to Chang, and Home Minister Yi Hae-ku, then first vice director of the NSP, may have been deeply involved in the violence, investigators speculated. Pak and Yi may be summoned for questioning if they are found to be linked to the violence.

YONHAP Analyzes Kim Yong-sam Military Appointments

SK0903065793 Seoul YONHAP in English 0516 GMT 9 Mar 93

["News Analysis" by Cho Se-hyon]

[Text] Seoul, March 9 (YONHAP)—President Kim Yong-sam dismissed two key army generals Monday, sending a clear and unmistakable signal that he intends to control and reform the military under his civilian government.

Kim replaced Army Chief of Staff Gen. Kim Chin-yong, with Gen. Kim Tong-chin, deputy commander-in-chief of the Korea-U.S. Combined Forces Command (CFC), and Commander of the Defense Security Command (DSC) Gen. So Wan-su with Maj. Gen. Kim To-yun, the DSC chief of staff.

As the shock of the lightning move eased some 24 hours after it struck, many analysts and pundits saw it as an unmistakable expression of the president's confidence as commander in chief of the nation's armed forces.

The government tried hard to minimize the significance of Monday's announcement, explaining that the reshuffle was simply the next step following the appointments of cabinet ministers and vice ministers.

But Defense Ministry officials and high-ranking military officers were busy trying to hide their surprise as they huddled among themselves to find out what it means to them, according to sources at the ministry.

What surprised them most was that President Kim began to undertake reforms of the military so soon and in such a drastic way, striking at the very heart of the army—the chief of staff and the head of the powerful military intelligence agency.

Since Kim was inaugurated as Korea's first civilian president in more than three decades, there has been speculation that he would shift ranking posts at around the time the military is scheduled to conduct regular personnel changes in June.

There were unconfirmed reports that there had been a tug-of-war between Kim's civilian government and military leaders over previous cabinet and presidential secretariat appointments, and that that was why Kim used "shock treatment" to keep them in place and nip a possible backlash from the military in the bud.

The most prominent characteristic of Monday's action was Kim's obvious effort to turn the army away from politics. He filled the traditionally "political" posts in the army with a pair of the least-political generals.

Outgoing army chief of staff Gen. Kim Chin-yong (17th class of the Korean Military Academy [KMA]) and Lt. Gen. So Wan-su, replaced DSC commander (19th class of KMA), were both members of "Hana-hoe," a secret and exclusive fraternity in the military that has been disbanded. Compared with them, four-star Gen. Kim Tong-chin (17th class) is seen as a rare military officer who is closest to the ideal leader of a civilian controlled military. Although he was graduated from KMA with Kim Chin-yong, he did not belong to Hana-hoe, nor was he associated with the last two presidents, former Gens. Chon Tu-hwan and No Tae-u.

"He is a pure military general—a very smart one at that—and has never been involved in politics," one military expert said. His appointment as army chief of staff, therefore, was obviously aimed at weakening the power of Hana-hoe ex-members. It was also seen as a reflection of popular belief, both in and outside the military, that some sort of neutralizing actions were necessary against the ex-members of Hana-hoe, who almost "monopolize" important military positions at present. Removing them from those positions is necessary if the nation is to cut off the military's meddling in politics, analysts believe.

Meanwhile, the replacement of Lt. Gen. So Wan-su, another Hana- hoe ex-member, as commander of the DSC with a lower ranked officer, Maj. Gen. Kim To-yun, is also regarded as a sign of Kim's intention to reduce the functions and operations of the military intelligence agency.

It is also an expression of the president's determination that the military spy organization will not be allowed to meddle in domestic politics but must concentrate on military intelligence, sources say.

Thus, with a swift and decisive stroke, Kim has resolved one of the most difficult problems blocking the way of reforms in the military. More personnel changes are likely in the military in the weeks to come, and it remains to be seen how those officers who used to wield powerful influence over previous governments and national policies react.

Foreign Ministry 'Special Appointees' To Retire Soon

SK0903040093 Seoul YONHAP in English 0221 GMT 9 Mar 93

[Text] Seoul, March 9 (YONHAP)—Ambassadors to several key countries are expected to retire shortly, Foreign Ministry sources said Tuesday. Ambassador to the United States Hyon Hong-chu, ambassador to China No Chae-won, ambassador to Britain Yi Hong-ku and ambassador to Germany Sin Tong-won are among those to retire.

Four special appointees—ambassador to Brazil Han Chol-su, ambassador to Sweden Yi Si-yong, ambassador to Bulgaria Kim Chwa-su and consul general in Hamburg Pak Chun-pom—are also to retire soon.

Of all special appointees eight are to retire and two will be appointed, leaving a total of 12. Ambassador to United Nations Yu Chong-ha is to retain his post.

NSP To Trim 200 Senior Officials From Ranks

SK0603011893 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 6 Mar 93 p 1

[Text] The nation's spy agency will trim some 200 senior officials as part of a plan to adjust to the call of new era. Those who played leading roles in the intervention and surveillance of political activities in the past will be dismissed, it was learned yesterday. A reliable source inside the ruling camp said, "My understanding is that those who had tarnished the image of the Agency for National Security Planning [NSP] shall be removed." The source added that those to go will also include officials awaiting their retirement.

Included on the list of those to be expelled are 10 involved in the "Yongpari case"—the violent disruption of the creation of an opposition party led by Kim Yong-sam in 1987—four to five who actively led the dictatorial Yusin (revitalizing) system in the Pak Chong-hui government, and 30 to 40 who will retire soon. A secret probe is reportedly under way to find NSP officials who are connected with graft and corruption. On top of this, the NSP will abolish three vice minister-level posts of "special aides" to the NSP head.

The NSP, the Korean version of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, plans to degrade the status of the vice ministerial position of the Planning and Management Office to the first grade. The spy agency, however, will strengthen its function of gathering overseas information as well as anti-espionage activities. The NSP's traditional surveillance over domestic politics will be done away with, it was learned.

Budget Cuts Planned for Government Agencies

SK0803053093 Seoul YONHAP in English 0458 GMT 8 Mar 93

[Text] Seoul, March 8 (YONHAP)—Government agencies will be the first to feel the economic pinch from budget cuts and pay freezes at the presidential office, Agency for National Security Planning and Defense Ministry, officials said Monday. Economic Planning Minister Yi Kyong-sik told a top-level meeting that his ministry will set an example of austerity by slashing its own budget and that other agencies should follow.

"Budget rearrangement is under way to cut down unnecessary expenditures," an official said. "Such budget reduction will affect all major agencies without exception as instructed by President Kim Yong-sam." Kim's 100-day economic plan will include the Defense Ministry, which eats up 25 percent of the national budget, according to the officials. The plan also includes freezing pay for public workers of grade three and up at last year's level, and restricting all expansion plans, they said.

Administration To Conduct Thorough Background Checks

SK0603030493 Seoul YONHAP in English 0228 GMT 6 Mar 93

[Text] Seoul, March 6 (YONHAP)—President Kim Yong-sam's administration has decided to conduct thorough background checks of all ministerial and other ranking government appointees following charges of illegal real estate transactions by Health and Social Affairs Minister Pak Yang-sil. An aide to Kim admitted Saturday that there was controversy over the qualifications of some government appointees. The government was working out not just a stop-gap measure but a basic principle to counter the controversy, said the aide, requesting anonymity.

Kim, meanwhile, presided over a cabinet meeting at Chongwadae [presidential offices] Saturday morning and stressed that he expected morality and high ethical standards from his government officials. He warned the ministers to be careful in their public conduct. Kim then expressed regret over rumors and unsubstantiated speculation questioning the morality of officials. "They are warnings to public officials how they should live their life," Kim told the cabinet. "They are also an indication of the people's moral standards."

A question has been raised, especially by the nation's news media, if the Kim administration has the ability to carry out personnel management after newspaper exposes of the alleged wrongdoings of Justice Minister Pak Hui-tae, Seoul Mayor Kim Sang-chol and Health and Social Affairs Minister Pak. Seoul Mayor Kim, accused of tampering with a nature preservation greenbelt for the construction of a house, was relieved of his job on Thursday. As part of the government's efforts to check the backgrounds of high officials, the president is expected to ask cabinet ministers and all other ranking officials to disclose their personal assets within next week, the aide said.

The government would look into the way some of their assets were acquired if there were any questions, he said. The presidential office and the Board of Audit and Inspection would take decisive action against any official found to have violated the law, he said. Meanwhile, President Kim was reported to have decided to accept the resignation of Health and Social Affairs Minister Pak, the aide said. He said, however, the newspaper reports on Pak's real estate transactions were different from the fact, so the government would let her clear up the matter at a press conference. Nevertheless, if there were any trace of illegality she would have no choice but to resign, he added.

President Kim Yong-sam Grants Amnesty to 41,886

SK0603024293 Seoul YONHAP in English 0214 GMT 6 Mar 93

[Text] Seoul, March 6 (YONHAP)—President Kim Yong-sam, celebrating the inauguration of his administration, granted amnesty Saturday to 41,886 people, including 5,823 convicted of public security-related crimes. The amnesty, the largest of its kind ever, will commute prison terms, grant parole and restore civil rights. It was officially announced after being passed at a special cabinet meeting presided over by President Kim at Chongwadae [presidential offices].

The government also decided to expunge the criminal records of 5 million people convicted of minor crimes, including violation of the homeland reserve force law. Among the 2,132 people released from prisons were the Rev. Mun Ik-hwan and six leftists aged 70 or older. Mun, 75, had been serving a prison term for paying an unauthorized visit to North Korea. Also released were 10 of the students who had been involved in arson at Dongui University in Pusan and and seven students who attacked Chong Won-sik at Hankuk University of foreign studies shortly after Chong became Prime Minister.

Yi Yong-hui, former editorial writer of the HANKYORE SHINMUN, had the rest of a suspended sentence for his involvement in an attempted visit to North Korea, commuted. But former leftist student leaders, including Yim Chong-sok, Pak Chong-yol and Chon Mun-hwan, failed to receive amnesty. They were imprisoned for arranging a visit to North Korea by Yim

Su-kyong. Yim herself was recently released on parole. Thirty-six prisoners involved in the case of the Socialist Workers League, or Sanomaeng, and former lawmaker So Kyong-won also failed to get amnesty. So is serving a prison term for an illegal visit to North Korea.

Ministry To Scrap Test for Foreign Accountants

SK0903044693 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 9 Mar 93 p 10

[Text] A special test for foreigners wishing to offer accounting services in Korea will be scrapped.

A Ministry of Finance [MOF] official said Korea will abolish the special English examination this year through a revision of the law. Foreigners must under-go Korean language CPA [Certified Public Accountant] tests if they want to offer accounting services here without restrictions, he said.

Under the current system, foreign CPAs can provide accounting services to joint venture firms here, not Korean firms, if they pass a simple English test. The special test is designed to help foreign CPAs conduct business even if they do not know the Korean language, he said.

Although the special test was introduced a few years ago, few foreign CPAs applied to take it. But the elimination of the test will prevent foreign CPAs from providing accounting services to Korean firms, analysts said.

If foreigners want to provide accounting services to Korean firms, they must take the same Korean language CPA test as Korean nationals, an MOF official said.

If foreigners pass the regular Korean language CPAs, they will be able to provide accounting services not only to joint venture firms but also all Korean firms, he said.

Furthermore, foreigners who pass the Korean CPA test will be able to make equity participation in domestic accounting firms, he noted.

The MOF decided to eliminate the special English CPA test for foreigners and to provide the same treatment to both Koreans and foreigners who pass the regular Korean CPA test.

Regardless of visa status, foreigners with Korean CPA certification will be able to offer their services here, he noted.

Koreans must take two tests covering 11 subjects if they want to become CPAs. But under the special English test, foreign CPAs can provide accounting services to joint venture firms if they pass tests that cover five subjects.

An MOF official said, "The American Chamber of Commerce [AmCham] in Korea has wrongly argued that visas issued to foreign CPAs are restrictive. Also AmCham Korea said foreigners are barred from making equity participation in domestic accounting firms and that they are limited to providing services to only joint venture firms."

AmCham Korea said in its annual draft report;

—Visas issued to foreign CPAs are restrictive in that a foreign CPA can not provide any service in any area of practice in which the foreign CPA is qualified and has demonstrated expertise and experience.

—Equity investments in domestic Korean CPA firms by foreigners and foreign entities are not permitted here.

—While foreign nationals, if qualified, are now allowed to take the Korean CPA examination and ultimately obtain a Korean CPA license, it is not at all clear that they will actively be permitted to work as CPAs in Korea.

But MOF officials said AmCham Korea "misunderstands" Korean regulations and appears not to have a full grasp of even U.S. rules for CPAs, adding that the government decided to scrap the special English CPA test because foreigners regard the test as "discrimination," not as privilege.

As Koreans must pass an English CPA test in the United States to practice there, so foreigners must pass a Korean language CPA test here "if they want to deal in a full range of services under the same conditions as Korean CPAs," he said.

The association of Korean CPAs conveyed Seoul's official decision to the American Chamber of Commerce in Korea yesterday.

The yearly revenue for the accounting business is estimated at 70 billion won and there are about 2,000 CPAs here.

Russia Seeks Sea of Okhotsk Fishing Talks

SK0903022093 Seoul YONHAP in English 0103 GMT 9 Mar 93

[Text] Seoul, March 9 (YONHAP)—Russia, reversing its plan to bar foreign fishing flotillas from operating in the Sea of Okhotsk, recently said it was ready to hold multilateral negotiations with South Korea, Japan, China, Poland and other countries on fishing in the sea, government sources here said Tuesday.

To prepare for the negotiations, Korea will have unofficial discussions with other countries fishing in the sea about Russia's new policy during the fisheries meeting of the food and agriculture organization opening in Rome on March 15. Korea will be represented by Yi Tae-sik, a Foreign Ministry councilor.

The sources said these countries, after the unofficial talks in Rome, would propose multilateral talks to Moscow to discuss safe operations of their fishing boats and conservation of fishery resources in the Sea of Okhotsk.

Korea has 31 fishing boats operating in the sea, six more than the number allowed by Russia in the area. These six boats will be taken out of the sea for smooth negotiations with Russia, the sources said.

YONHAP Reports Team Spirit Marine Activity

SK0903062593 Seoul YONHAP in English 0306 GMT 9 Mar 93

[Text] Pohang, South Korea, March 9 (YONHAP)—South Korean and U.S. Marines hit the beaches of Pohang in an amphibious landing Tuesday morning as part of the South Korea-U.S. annual exercise "Team Spirit."

It was the largest landing of its kind ever by leathernecks of the two countries and demonstrated their combat skills and strike capability.

This year's landing, which also tested the ability of the two Marine Corps to work together, was commanded by Lt. Gen. Yim Chong-lin, Korean marine commandant and commander of the Korea-U.S. Combined Marine Forces Command, and featured a variety of combined combat skills.

Under a scenario that North Korean forces had attacked and seized a location in the eastern area, the marines stormed ashore from landing ships while other forces were deployed inland by choppers in an attempt to interdict retreating enemy troops.

Some personnel of the Korean marine special operations units were covertly infiltrated along the shorelines hours before the massive landing, blowing up natural and artificial obstacles, some of them under water, to clear the way for the amphibious landing.

Once the obstacles were cleared, the marines began storming ashore under artillery and bombing cover from warships and fighterbombers and easily established beachheads.

Along with the amphibious landing, choppers ferried marines inland to encircle and strike the enemy simultaneously.

By making the most of speedy and powerful mobile equipment, the marines moved further inland and neutralized the imaginary enemy forces swiftly, putting an end to the exercise.

Notably, the landing included high-tech U.S. military equipment such as B1-B bombers and F-117A Stealth fighterbombers, along with Harrier vertical take-off aircraft and pilotless aerial reconnaissance vehicles.

Trade Minister To Visit Washington in Early April

SK0603021093 Seoul YONHAP in English 0046 GMT 6 Mar 93

[Text] Seoul, March 6 (YONHAP)—South Korean Trade, Industry, and Resources Minister Kim Chol-su said Friday that he will fly to Washington early next month to settle trade issues. Kim said that he would meet with trade officials and explain Korea's position before the hearing by the American International Trade Commission (ITC) on whether Korean semiconductor exports caused damage to U.S. industry and the U.S. trade representative's assessment on intellectual property rights protections, both in April. Details of the trade talks were under discussion, Kim said.

Canadian Minister Seeks Strengthened Relations

SK0903032893 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 9 Mar 93 p 9

[By staff reporter Pak Yun-pae]

[Text] Canada wants to further strengthen cooperation with Korea in the field of nuclear technology, energy, and resources, the Canadian energy minister said yesterday. Bill McKnight, Canadian minister of energy, mines and resources, said in a meeting with reporters that Canada's extensive cooperation with Korea in nuclear technology is one of the most important and successful relationships.

"Because more than 60 percent of Canadian trade with Korea falls in the sectors of energy, mines and resources, Koreans are well aware that Canada is a reliable supplier of high quality products and services in these sectors," he said.

McKnight, who became the energy minister Jan. 14 this year, arrived here Friday to explore ways of consolidating cooperative relations between the two countries.

He said Canada is proud to be the third-largest exporter of nuclear reactors in the world, adding that it is serious about its commitment to the development of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes.

"We want to develop nuclear cooperation on the basis of long-term partnerships and technology transfers," he said.

This approach has made it possible for Atomic Energy of Canada Limited (AECL) and the Korea Atomic Energy Research Institute (KAERI) to collaborate on nuclear energy projects, according to him.

Recognizing the value of high nuclear technology, Korea is already operating a Canadian-made reactor at Wolsong and another is under construction. And the Korea Electric Power Corp. (KEPCO) has ordered two more.

Canada supplies about 33 percent of Korea's uranium demand. It also is Korea's second largest coal supplier with a market share of 20 percent. Korea imported 6.4 million tons of coal worth $350 million in 1991.

He said Canada is currently the third largest recipient of Korea's overseas investments. In 1990, the amount of Korean investment stood at $122 million.

Hyundai Heavy Industries won two contracts earlier this year totalling $100 million to build two topside facilities for offshore platforms in oil and natural gas fields off the Canada's Atlantic coast.

In February 1992, Investment Canada signed a letter of understanding with the Korean Development Bank regarding cooperation to promote bilateral investments between Canada and Korean firms.

ROK Opens Embassy in South Africa 5 Mar

SK0603013593 Seoul YONHAP in English 0044 GMT 6 Mar 93

[Text] Seoul, March 6 (YONHAP)—South Korea opened an embassy in Pretoria on Friday with Kim Sun-hung as acting ambassador, the Foreign Ministry said. South Korea and South Africa normalized relations Dec. 1 after a gradual lifting of apartheid. The two countries shared over 900 million U.S. dollars of trade in 1991 and 425 million dollars in the first half of last year. Seoul had imports of 292 million dollars and exports of 133 million dollars.

PRC's Hebei Province Proposes $6.6 Billion in Projects

SK0603020893 Seoul YONHAP in English 0049 GMT 6 Mar 93

[Text] Seoul, March 6 (YONHAP)—Hebei Province, China, has proposed joint projects worth 6.6 billion U.S. dollars to South Korean companies. Vice Governor Ye Liansong, now here heading a delegation from the Hebei provincial government, told a news conference Friday that he had suggested 812 joint projects—100 for large companies and 712 were for small- and medium-sized companies. The projects range from machinery, chemical and electronic to medicine, metallurgy and construction materials. The Chinese economic mission is to hold a commodity fair and give advice on joint ventures at the Korea exhibition center on March 8-14.

IOC Elects ROK as Executive Council Member

SK0603021393 Seoul YONHAP in English 0136 GMT 6 Mar 93

[Text] Seoul, March 6 (YONHAP)—South Korea was recently elected an Executive Council member to the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), the Foreign Ministry announced Saturday. Korea was elected to the 30-nation board at the commission's 17th general meeting at UNESCO headquarters in Paris. Seoul representatives told the IOC they plan to extensively contribute to the commission's global ocean observing system and marine science training and education following the election. The IOC was established in 1960 and has 121 members.

Russian News Agency Head Urges More Aid From U.S.

SK0703013093 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 7 Mar 93 pp 1, 2

[Article by Vitaliy Ignatenko, director-general of ITAR-TASS news agency, from the "Moscow Vantage Point" column entitled: "Russia and the United States"]

[Text] What policy will the Clinton administration pursue with respect to Russia? Will the White House encourage U.S. private investors to infuse capital into Russia?

No dramatic shifts in this direction are in view as yet. The new resident of the White House appears set to let specialists—career diplomats and experts—handle the bulk of foreign political activity not only with regard to Russia and Commonwealth member countries but also such high-tension issues as the crisis in former Yugoslavia. This behavior is not incidental: the election campaign in the United States focused almost exclusively on domestic social and economic problems, and it would be suicidal for Clinton to forget the fact.

However, the American president is a clever and energetic man, and he simply needs time to become fully aware that the failure of reforms in Russia would draw the United States into another arms race, which will certainly bury the new administration's plans for reforming the health service and education systems, curbing the budget deficit and encouraging the growth of the middle class.

The new president is surely aware of all this at a speculative level, but the idea has not yet taken firm root and has not yet become one of the central concerns of his presidency.

Bill Clinton is young and, more likely than not, counts on remaining in the political limelight in the 21st century. This means that he cannot do without working out a profound foreign political strategy. Russia's role in this strategy is pivotal, and the period of the changing of the guard in Washington seems to be most appropriate for recalling that Moscow has always had and always will have its own view on problems, different from that of the United States, and this has to be taken into account.

For instance, Ariel Cohen, a Russia expert of the Heritage Foundation, an influential American think-tank, said in his article, "Clinton's Coming Crisis: Russia" that the U.S. Administration must assist President Yeltsin in his efforts to dismantle the 70-year heritage of communism and turn Russia into a democratic and prosperous country integrated in the Western system. It is no longer enough to voice sympathy. In order to extend real assistance to Russia and other Commonwealth member countries on their road to reforms, the U.S. President should meet his Russian opposite number not later than in March.

The United States must finalize its policy with respect to the Commonwealth of Independent States and offer a package of assistance sufficient to make clear that the West is resolutely backing the Russian reformers. Considerable coordination of Western aid programs is also needed, including a review by the Paris Club of the terms of repayment of the former Soviet Union's and Russia's debts. The failure of economic reforms and ensuing hyperinflation could lead to a breakup of Russia into warring factions or regions.

Hyperinflation and the threat of the fall of the Moscow Government are fraught with the internal explosion, chaos and civil war in Russia. Russia then could fall into the hands of the ultra-nationalist demagogues, who are already enjoying growing public support. Should Russia succumb to totalitarian dictatorship, a regime inimical to the West is quite likely to be established there.

As concerns security, further U.S. assistance should be conditional on Moscow's fulfillment of the previously signed arms control agreements. It is necessary to insist on the agreed timetable for the withdrawal of Russian troops from Eastern Europe and the Baltic countries and, along with this, on respect for minority rights in the Baltics.

Clinton can only hope to avert catastrophe in the former Soviet Union by making Russia a high priority of his foreign policy and persistently implementing a comprehensive program, including an aid package.

It was not Russia which suffered defeat in the Cold War, but communism. U.S. public opinion tends to overlook this important difference. The temptation is great to look down on the former adversary and try and make Russia follow in the steps of U.S. policy in every respect. But this temptation must be overcome. If the United States is interested in stable democratic government in Russia, it must understand: Such government is only possible if it is strong and independent.

The building of partnership relations between Russia and the United States will probably be just as difficult as the overcoming of earlier confrontation. Both Moscow and Washington will need to muster pragmatism, exercise sober-minded self-evaluation and show the will to compromise. The time of dramatic turnabouts is past, hopefully, for the better.

Small Enterprises To Export Goods to Russia

SK0803140393 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 8 Mar 93 p 4

[Text] Because of Russia's delay of its loan interest payment, the government plans to give priority to small- and medium-sized enterprises to export their consumer goods in stores to Russia. According to relevant authorities in the Ministries of Finance and Trade and Industry, the government signed an agreement with Russia to receive aluminum for the payment of loan interest.

Small- and medium-sized enterprises participated in either the manufacturing service or in the exporting business are suffering from financial difficulties because of their consumer goods in stores. Considering this, the government has decided to give priority to small- and medium-sized enterprise to export their consumer goods in stores to Russia. The new government has formulated this policy after reviewing the previous loan policy toward Russia. Therefore, it attracts public attention.

A Ministry of Finance official said: $18.9 million of the loan interest for consumer goods, which were executed in 1991, were paid. The payment of $3.2 million, which is the interest for January and February, is being delayed. The interest for March is expected to be paid on 15 March. He added: When the overdue interest is paid, the government will give priority to small- and medium-sized enterprises to export their consumer goods to Russia.

Editorial Urges 'Prudence' in DPRK Policy

SK0803133993 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 8 Mar 93 p 3

[Editorial: "Prudence Is Needed in Formulating Policy on Nuclear Issue"]

[Text] It has been reported that the new government is exploring ways to bring a new breakthrough in its policy toward the North as part of its endeavor to improve inter-Korean relations.

On the surface, inter-Korean relations have stumbled into a difficulty because of the North Korean nuclear inspection issue and the Team Spirit exercise. Under these circumstances, some optimists in the new government advocate, though with a degree of carefulness, that if the ROK copes with the North Korean nuclear issue with flexibility, it will be able to bring about a new breakthrough in inter-Korean relations.

However, this optimistic view reveals its own limitations of observing the current difficulties in inter-Korean relations in an unduly superficial manner. The North Korean nuclear policy should not be viewed simply in terms of North Korea's capability to develop nuclear weapons. It should be viewed from the angle of North Korea's crisis-managing policy.

Unless North Korea makes efforts to implement domestic reform and international openness with a new perspective to overcome the internal and external crisis it is presently facing, a breakthrough will hardly come by in the inter-Korean relations even if we cope with the North Korean nuclear issue with flexibility.

Another reason why we should deal with the North Korean nuclear inspection issue with prudence is that this is not only the pending issue between North and South Korea but also for the international community.

North Korea's nuclear inspection issue is being discussed by the International Atomic Energy Agency, and a more specific measure against North Korea is likely to be discussed by the agency if North Korea does not show a proper response. Therefore, our government should prudently deal with this issue in close cooperation with the agency and the countries concerned.

The key to the improvement of inter-Korean relations lies in the change in North Korea's crisis-managing policy, rather than in North Korea's nuclear issue itself, and in the subsequent alteration and change in North Korea's southward policy. The important thing at this juncture for the improvement of inter-Korean relations is not implementing the policy of excessive flexibility in dealing with the existing North Korean southward policy but formulating a policy aimed at helping North Korea alter its crisis-managing policy which has been far from desirable for the peaceful reunification of the Korean peninsula.

This concept of dealing with North Korea should not be limited merely to the review of our policy toward the North Korean nuclear policy but it should be applied to inducing North Korea into a new path by helping North Korea dispel its sense of crisis in the framework of peace in Northeast Asia and by providing North Korea an alternative for resolving its economic crisis in the framework of economic cooperation of Northeast Asia.

South Considering Joint Venture With North in DMZ

SK0803022693 Seoul YONHAP in English 0200 GMT 8 Mar 93

[Text] Seoul, March 8 (YONHAP)—A medicinal herb is the latest candidate to heal relations between the estranged Koreas. The South is considering joining forces with the North to grow ginseng in the Demilitarized Zone, a government official said Monday. Demand for ginseng is increasing, but production is limited, so the government is considering a deal in which it provides the equipment and Pyongyang supplies the labor and land for a ginseng farm. Related ministries are to consult on the idea and discuss its feasibility soon, the official said.

Last year, 15,642 tons of ginseng were grown in the South, 9.4 percent up from a year earlier. But this year the crop will be 15,455 tons, 1.2 percent lower than in 1992. Ginseng farmhouses are expected to number 30,500 at the end of this year, off 15.6 percent from 36,146 in 1991, due to the decline in rural populations and rise in labor costs, the official said.

Companies Consider Russian Helicopter Purchase

SK0803010593 Seoul YONHAP in English 0052 GMT 8 Mar 93

[Text] Seoul, March 8 (YONHAP)—South Korean helicopter manufacturers are thinking of purchasing Russian choppers, which are cheaper and bigger than U.S. and Japanese helicopters, because of the growing popularity of air transportation, industry sources said Monday. They are also closely examining joint-venture manufacturing of helicopters based on a recent offer by Russia to transfer aviation technology. A Russian MI-17 helicopter holds up to 25 passengers and costs around 1.1 billion won (1.3 million U.S. dollars), compared with 2. 5 billion won for the three-passenger Japanese BK 117 now in use here.

But Korean manufacturers are being cautious over importing Russian helicopters because they are reputed to be less safe than those from other nations despite their high quality, the sources said. And because the radio system in Russian helicopters is unfamiliar in Korea, they may not draw great interest from the Korean helicopter industry as it is just beginning, they said. The sources added that the Defense Ministry might oppose importing Russian air helicopters because North Korea owns the same kind.

Corporation Encourages Economic Aid Steps for North

SK0603075393 Seoul KYONGHYANG SINMUN in Korean 6 Mar 93 p 2

[Text] With aggravated relations with China, North Korea is facing great difficulties in securing crude oil, coal and other necessities. As a result, it is making desperate efforts to obtain loans, to vitalize border trade, to explore for oil in the continental shelves, and to resolve other problems. On 5 March, the Korea Trade Promotion Corporation [Kotra] pointed out that since the early part of this year when China asked North Korea to pay make cash payments for trade transactions, North Korea has suffered a serious blow to its economy—so serious as to warrant a drastic reduction in industrial production.

Kotra stressed that our government, therefore, should offer 1 million tons of crude oil to North Korea annually in a bid to intensify North-South economic cooperation and that the parts industry should be actively promoted among the small and medium enterprises of North Korea.

Since China demanded payment in cash, North Korea asked China for loans in crude oil and other necessities. In addition, it has been trying to revitalize trade between the two countries in an attempt to attain an annual volume of about $100 million. North Korea also plans to invite crude oil exploration technicians from Japan within this month in order to secure the source of crude oil supply and to push ahead with oil exploration 100 meters under the sea off Hungnam in the East Sea.

Finance Ministry To Import 430 Tons of DPRK Tobacco

SK0603031193 Seoul YONHAP in English 0230 GMT 6 Mar 93

[Text] Seoul, March 6 (YONHAP)—A shipment of 430 tons of North Korean leaf tobacco will arrive in South Korea by May, the Finance Ministry said Saturday. The Korea Tobacco and Ginseng Corp. bought the tobacco from a dealer in Hong Kong for 1 million U.S. dollars in January, it said.

The tobacco will be shipped from the North Korean port of Nampo to Hong Kong and then to South Korea. The tobacco was of second and third grade because those grades are in short supply in South Korea, and the deal would improve inter-Korea economic cooperation, ministry officials said.

Opposition Questions DLP, Chongwadae Money Ties

SK0603013993 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 6 Mar 93 p 2

[Text] The opposition parties yesterday demanded a thorough investigation of claims that Chongwadae [presidential offices] regularly supplied political fund to the ruling Democratic Liberal Party [DLP]. They called for the setting up of an inter-party committee at the National Assembly as well as public hearings to get a full picture of the "illegal" practice. The offensive was triggered following DLP secretary general Choe Hyong-u's revelation of the fact that the party was supplied three billion won a month.

Yi Ki-taek, representative chairman of the main opposition Democratic Party, said in a meeting with reporters, "There is a need to clarify how the political funding was funneled from Chongwadae to the DLP." Earlier, Rep. Choe said the DLP would not receive three billion won in political funds any longer, a statement which Yi claimed to be clear proof that the ruling camp had dipped into unlawful political funds. Yi heaped severe criticism on President Kim Yong-sam for his remark that he would not receive any money from business firms or individual, saying it was a confession that the ruling camp had taken political funds in a secret manner so far.

In addition to the political fund issue, Yi called for public hearings to investigate such suspicious national projects as construction of a railroad linking Seoul and Pusan and an international airport on Yongjong islet and the selection of the undertaker of the second mobile telephone project. The United People's Party also called for public hearings on the political fund issue, saying Choe's remark confirmed the illegal funneling of political funds between the DLP and Chongwadae.

The party decided to take up the issue in a meeting of top party officials presided over by acting chairman Pak Yong-nok. The splinter New Party for Political Reform led by maverick Rep. Pak Chan-chong also called for a thorough investigation of the issue by the prosecution authorities as well as by the National Assembly. Party spokesman Kim Tong-chu demanded a revision of the Political Fund Law on the occasion of the revelation of the illegal fund supply.

Meantime, Rep. Choe said his remarks had been reported wrongly. He said he had intended to say that the party had spent three billion a month on party management. Choe, however, acknowledged the party had received some amounts of money from Chongwadae regularly.

Burma

Party Delegates, MP's Hold Panel Discussions

BK0903015093 Rangoon Burma Television Network in Burmese 1330 GMT 8 Mar 93

[Text] Two groups of National Convention delegates held panel discussions this morning and afternoon in their respective meeting rooms in the Kyaikkasan Grounds. They discussed names and arrangement of chapter headings contained in the speech by the presiding chairman on 3 March at the plenary session of the National Convention.

The panel discussion of delegates representing political parties was held at 1000 in Room No. 5 in the Kyaikkasan Grounds. U Tun Yin Law of National Unity Party [NUP] chaired the meeting while U Zeya acted as secretary of the meeting. The following delegates participated in the discussions: U Lwin of the National League for Democracy [NLD]; U Sai Ai Paung of the Shan Nationalities League for Democracy; U Tun Yi of the NUP; U Khun Sein Win of the Union Pa-o National Organization; U Ti Daung Win of the Shan State Kokang Democratic Party; U Maung Pein alias U Khin Maung Thein of the Mro or Khami National Solidarity Organization; U Kyar Hashei of the Lahu National Development Party; U Saw Daniel of the Union Karen League; U Lo Hsin Kwan of the Kokang Democracy and Unity Party; and U Ni Palok of the Wa National Development Party. The meeting ended at 1335 after participants agreed to resume on 10 March.

Delegates representing elected representatives held a panel discussion at 0900 in Room No. 4. U Daniel Aung of the Lahu National Development Party chaired the meeting and U Myo Nyunt acted as secretary of the meeting. Names and arrangement of chapter headings contained were in the presiding chairman's speech delivered at the plenary session of the National Convention.

The following delegates participated in the discussons: U Hla Pe of Moulmeingyun constituency, Irrawaddy Division; U Tun Yi, Sandoway, Rakhine State; U Khun Tun U of Hsipaw constituency, Shan State; U Sai Tin Win of Namsang constituency, Shan State; U Thein Tun [name as heard] of Ingabu constituency, Irrawaddy Division; U San Tha Aung of Kyauktaw constituency, Rakhine State; U Tun Hlaing, independent from Bahan constituency, Yangon [Rangoon] Division; and U Htaung Kho Htan of Tamu constituency, Sagaind Division.

After the discussions, the morning session was adjourned. When the meeting resumed at 1430 the following delegates participated in the discussions on names and arrangements of chapter headings contained in the speech of the presiding chairman at the plenary session: U Hla Maung, Kya-in Seikkyi constituency, Karen State; U Aung Thein of Ywangan constituency, Shan State; U Maung Gyi of the Panel of Chairmen on behalf of U Tun Kyaw of Namhsan, Shan State; U Khin Maung Cho, Dimawhso constituency, Shan State; and Dr. Hmu Tang, Thangtlang, Chin State.

The meeting ended at 1615 after participants agreed that it would resume on 9 March with a meeting between the Panel of Chairmen and delegates who participated in discussions, to compile a report on the group discussion.

It has been learned that the group representing public service personnel had submitted their report on their 4 March discussions on names and arrangement of chapter headings contained in 3 March speech by the panel chairman to the National Convention Work Committee on 5 March. The report had been signed and endorsed by the group.

Government Employees Urged To Avoid Politics

BK0903092593 Rangoon Burma Television Network in Burmese 1330 GMT 8 Mar 93

[Excerpts] A coordination meeting of the General Administration Department [GAD] of the Ministry of Home Affairs was held at the meeting hall on the first floor of the city hall this morning at 0900.

Major General Tin U, secretary-2 of the State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC], delivered an opening address. He said he would like to briefly explain the activities of the GAD and the Immigration and Manpower Department [IMPD]. [passage omitted] He finally urged responsible personnel to frankly and clearly discuss their views concerning the implementation of present and future tasks.

Next, Maj. Gen. Mya Thinn, minister of home affairs, addressed the meeting and affirmed that the GAD is an important tool in the state administrative machinery. He said that since the SLORC established all levels of law and order restoration councils, GAD public service personnel have been members. Continuing, he reminded responsible personnel to implement the GAD's main responsibilities—general administration work, municipal activities, and registering and scrutinizing literary works—with honesty, impartiality, and effectiveness. Furthermore, he said some of the GAD's laws were enacted during colonial times and are not in compliance with the present situation. He added that steps are being taken to enact suitable new laws. Finally, he urged public service personnel to refrain from party politics in order to avoid corruption and partiality. [passage omitted]

SLORC Annuls Interest on Home Loans for Staff

BK0403122993 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 3 Mar 93

[Announcement No. 1/93 of the Ministry of Finance and Revenue, Government of the Union of Myanmar [Burma], dated 3 March]

[Text] 1. The Ministry of Planning and Finance has from April 1990, provided housing loans to public service personnel to build their own homes.

2. The repayment period is 10 years, payable over 120 installments, with an annual interest rate of 5 percent. In order to overcome the difficulties in repayment, for the happiness of public service personnel, and to moderately increase their welfare, the present repayment period of 10 years payable over 120 installments has been extended to 18 years payable over 216 installments. The present annual interest rate of 5 percent has been annuled and the loans will be interest free.

3. In accordance with the amendment, the repayment of housing loans by public service personnel are as follows:

a. The loans are considered interest free from the day the loans are taken.

b. Prior interest paid at the annual rate of 5 percent will be regarded as a partial repayment for the initial loan.

c. Those who have taken housing loans shall begin repaying the installments for the initial loan one year after taking the loan. Repayment amounts exceeding installments will be allowed.

d. This announcement does not concern public service personnel who have already repaid the housing loans and interests according to the original plan.

e. Only public service personnel and pensioners who have taken housing loans have the right to benefit from this new repayment plan.

Signed: Win Tin, Brigadier General, Minister of Finance and Revenue.

Laotian Delegation Arrives for Border Talks

BK0903081493 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 8 Mar 93

[Text] Laotian delegation led by Mr. (Wan Kumachet), acting director of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, arrived in Yangon [Rangoon] by air this afternoon to attend sixth technical meeting of the Myanmar [Burma]-Lao Joint Boundary Commission [MLJBC] to be held in Yangon.

The delegation was welcomed at the airport by leader and members of the MLJBC from the Myanmar side; members of the Laotian embassy, and responsible personnel from Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Survey Department.

Two Insurgents Killed, One Escapes in Mudon

BK0503160793 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 5 Mar 93

[Text] Terrorist insurgents are hampering and disturbing peace and tranquillity. They cannot stand the sight of a successful National Convention being held by delegates from all classes and strata and from various organizations working unitedly to draw up the constitution. This is very important for the future of the state. Because they cannot stand the convention, they intend to cause death and confusion among those who want to live peacefully under law and order.

A group of ABSDF [All Burma Students' Democratic Front] from one of the camps in KNU's [Karen National Union] Brigade-6 region entered Chaung Hnagwa region, Mudon Township, Mon State with explosives and ammunition to engage in destructive activities.

While a military unit, acting on a tipoff from dutiful citizens, was waiting near the Mudon-Chaung Hnagwa Road they saw three suspicious-looking persons heading for Mudon at 1200 on 1 March. They were stopped and searched. During the search, the three resisted and tried to escape when the officers found explosives and propaganda leaflets in their bags. The officers fired shots to stop them. During their escape, Than Htay and Zaw Naing were shot and killed. One managed to escape. They were from the Brigade-6 of the KNU and were assigned on a special mission to engage in destructive activity in the town. Due to the timely tipoff from the dutiful citizens, they were arrested before their actions.

The soldiers confiscated seven hand grenades attached to the explosive sticks which were ready to be used, four TNT sticks, a 9-volt battery, 108 sheets of propaganda leaflets, and two travel documents for special mission produced by Brigade-6 region. The authorities are cooperating with the people to arrest the destructive element who managed to escape.

Mine Destroys Railway Track, Cars in Thanbyuzayat

BK0503163593 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 5 Mar 93

[Text] Terrorist insurgents are hampering and disturbing the peace and tranquility. In order to cause death and injuries among those who want to live peacefully under law and order, they are killing people in the villages and blowing up railway tracks with mines as well as engaging in destructive activities from all aspects.

The forerunner train, which left (Karoakbi) Station in Thanbyuzayat Township and headed for Thanbyuzayat to clear the line, hit the mine planted by NMSP [New Mon State Party] near Thama Village on 2 March at about 1030 in the morning. Three mine- resistant cars were derailed and overturned. Due to the explosion, a total of three cars—two empty cars in front of the engine and one car, which included 12 [figure as heard] mine-resistant cars—were derailed. Three railway tracks and 50 sleepers were destroyed.

Public service personnel San Maung, Sein Hoke, and Soe Myint Aung from Thanbyuzayat and Daw Shwe and Ma Aye Than from Kamawet Village track, Mudon Township were injured in the incident.

During the mopping-up activity conducted at the site by the local battalion, 40 yards of wire and 14 batteries were found under a bamboo tree 40 yards east of the explosion site. They also found another step mine [nhin mine] nearby and defused it. The injured personnel were sent to and treated at Moulmein Hospital and Thanbyuzayat Hospital.

The damaged rail tracks were repaired expeditiously by workers from Myanmar [Burma] Railway, soldiers, and local residents. It is learned that the trains have been running normally again since 3 March.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Brunei

Sultan Addresses Nation on Eve of National Day

BK0703063893 Kuala Belait THE BORNEO BULLETIN in English 23 Feb 93 p 1

[By Malai Hasan Othman]

[Text] His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-pertuan [Ruler] of Brunei Darussalam last night urged Bruneians to become more self reliant as they steered the nation toward progress and development.

Delivering a national day "titah [message]" over the state television and radio last night, the monarch said it is not wise for Brunei to continue to depend on foreign workforce in developing the nation.

The sultan said the active participation of locals, particularly in the private sector is crucial if the nation is to free itself from its continued reliance on foreign workforce. He cautioned the nation that over-dependence on foreign experts would only result in shortage of local experts.

The ruler in his titah was hopeful that the newly established Employees Trust Fund (TAP) would lure more locals to join the private sector. He said Brunei would not want unemployment in the country as the contributions and participation of every individual is necessary for nation building.

Earlier in his titah, the sultan stressed on the importance of diversifying the economy, particularly through industrialisation programmes and the private sector. He also mentioned how fortunate Brunei is to gain its independence when it has already established a system of government that can protect the interest of the nation and its people.

His majesty said that with blessings of Allah (SWT) [God Almighty], he has been able to safeguard the freedom of this country and fortify its national strength. His majesty said he was thankful to God for enabling him to fulfil his obligations of guiding this nation towards development and prosperity.

In his titah, he also touched on the crisis in Bosnia, the Palestinian problems, and Cambodia. He said Brunei strongly condemned all kinds of cruelty and continued to hope that the United Nations will live up to its name and creditability.

Referring to the plight of Palestinian deportees, the sultan condemned the action taken by Israelis who continue to ignore the UN resolutions.

His majesty expressed concern over unsettled developments in Cambodia and said that peace in Indochina was vital for stability and economic development in this region.

Last night, his majesty with his subjects performed mass prayers at the Grand Mosque in the capital to herald the coming of national day.

Today, the nation celebrates the ninth anniversary of the country, resuming its international responsibility as an independent and sovereign nation. This year's national day coincides with the first day of the fasting month.

Malaysia

Defense Chief: Armed Forces Need More Firepower

BK0503133593 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 4 Mar 93 p 2

[By K. Vijiyan]

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Wed—The Army, Royal Malaysian Air Force [RMAF], and Royal Malaysian Navy [RMN] would be equipped with new infantry weapons, aircarft and ships by the year 2000 to enforce the 320km Exclusive Economic Zone [EEZ].

Retiring Armed Forces chief Tan Sri Yaacob Mohamed Zain hoped to see the end of problems of outdated equipment, naval ships which had to return to port because of storms, and aircraft which neither could intercept nor wield air superiority.

The frank admission by the 58 year-old general of the weaknesses in the power projections of the three services of the armed forces is a sharp contrast to that of his predecessors over the country's ability to protect its resources.

Speaking at his final news conference at the Defence Ministry, Yaacob said the army was fitted with outdated equipment and arms some dating back to 30 years.

"The army lacks fire power, mobility in various terrains, deterrent equipment like tanks, logistics link-up and a surveillance system to determine the direction of an attack," he said.

On the RMN, he said "we need all-weather ships to enable our men to remain at sea for weeks instead of heading for port during a storm.

"We need ships with surveillance equipment and guns to engage the enemy at a fair range or be destroyed."

On the country's first line of defence, he said the RMAF did not have any aircraft to intercept hostile jets or to wield its air power.

He also said the RMAF's future role would include assisting the RMN in its enforcement of the EEZ and forward surveillance.

Yaacob felt that the RMAF and Navy must be beefed up to enable them to effectively protect the EEZ.

He also spoke of the need to order the aircraft and ships now as the lead time between ordering and supply is three to seven years.

He said the armed forces could not "hold the government to ransom" but hoped the equipment could be bought under the progressive five-year development programmes.

On the size of the armed forces, Yaacob said the Ministry was studyig the manpower needs with a view to trimming its strength which would be compensated by high technology weapons.

He hinted that the manpower reduction would affect the army most but stressed that the result would be a leaner force equipped with more sophisticated equipment and weapons.

Air Defense Chief Discusses Need for Superiority

BK0903073493 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0600 GMT 9 Mar 93

[Text] The development of Malaysia's air defense system is a must to ensure the country is well defended against possible external threat. Outgoing Air Force Chief Lieutenant General Datuk Sri Yunus Tasi said the capability of the Air Force needs to be built up through the the acquisition of new efforts such as air superiority aircraft. We also need to improve the capability of the existing aircraft like the Northrop F-5E—the only air defense fighters of the Royal Malaysian Air Force.

Speaking at the new conference he, however, said whatever new type of aircraft to be purchased must be capable, and one that will be able to remain in service for a long time.

The government is studying a Russian offer of MiG-29M fighters, while the United States have counter-offered an attractive package for its F-16 Falcon or F-18 Hornet.

Border Committee With Thailand To Be Reviewed

BK0803080893 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 5 Mar 93 p 7

[Text] The scope of the 37-year-old Malaysia-Thailand General Border Committee (GBC) will be totally reviewed to make it more relevant, said Defence Minister Datuk Sri Najib Tun Razak.

The one-day GBC meeting, held in Kuala Lumpur on Feb 10, directed its Malaysia-Thai Joint Working Group (JWG), an officials level committee, to conduct the review sometime in the middle of the year, in time for next year's GBC in Bangkok.

Also present at the GBC meeting was Najib's Thai counterpart, General Wichit Sukmak, who is GBC cochairman with Najib.

Najib said the JWG, jointly chaired by Defence Forces Chief General Tan Sri Yaacob Mohd Zain and the Chief of Staff of the Royal Thai Armed Forces General Wisit Atkhumwong, will meet to discuss the review.

Najib said a battalion-level Command Post Exercise involving the Malaysian and Thai armies would be held at the end of the year.

"The meeting agreed to enhance socio-economic development to achieve greater economic progress in the common border areas," said Najib.

Among the terms agreed were to intensify official visits, hold more cultural and social activities, eradicate smuggling along the border, crack down on piracy in common waters, and rehabilitate former communist terrorists who had laid down their arms.

"A Socio-Economic Development Committee (Sedec) office will be set up under the Regional Border Committee in Songkhla soon to facilitate implementation of socio-economic projects," said Najib.

Sedec will be responsible for the management and operation of the ferry service between Pengkalan Kubor in Kelantan and Tak Bai, Thailand, and the lighthouse and transit mark at Tak Bai.

"GBC had in the past acted as a mechanism to promote co-operation between the two countries' security forces," Najib said.

Singapore

Russia Wants To Ratify Investment Guarantee Pact

BK0903102393 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 9 Mar 93 p 40

[Text] Russia is keen to ratify the Investment Guarantee Agreement and the Double Taxation Avoidance (DTA) pact with Singapore to boost bilateral economic ties.

The vice president of the Russian Federation, General Aleksandr Rutskoy, said yesterday that both governments should speed up talks that would lead to the signing of these agreements.

"The present system does not provide opportunities for the fast inflow of overseas capital into Russia," he said.

On the DTA proposal, the Inland Revenue Authority of Singapore said yesterday that it would respond once it received a direct request from the Russian authorities.

Gen. Rutskoy, who is here on a two-day official visit at the invitation of Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong, also proposed wide-ranging joint ventures between the countries' electronics, aviation, transportation, and other sectors.

He broached these ideas at a breakfast meeting hosted by Intraco's chief executive, Mr. Bernard Chen.

The meeting had leading local businessmen like Times Publishing Group President Mr. Kua Hong Pak, DBS [Development Bank of Singapore] Bank Executive Vice President Mr. Ng Kee Choe, Singapore Aerospace President, Col. (Res) [Reserve] Quek Poh Huat, Keppel Corporation Executive Director Mr. Tong Chong Heong; OCBC [Overseas Chinese Banking Corporation] Bank Executive Vice President Mr. Wong Nang Jang, and Sembawang Group Chief Executive Mr. Ng Pock Too.

Gen. Rutskoy added that he had also proposed to Mr. Goh that the two countries should engage in joint research and development activities as well as set up an international patent bureau in Moscow to prevent "technology from being stolen."

He also assured local businessmen that his government would find suitable Russian partners for the joint-venture projects.

"The most critical problem is to find a good match. With your investments and our technology, with your marketing strategies and our technical knowhow, I see no problems in jointly pursuing opportunities in the region," he said.

Welcoming the proposal, Mr. Chen said that Russia offered a potential market of 300 million people. Local businessmen should therefore work at securing a foothold in the huge market now because the French and the Germans were already there in a big way.

"The country may be in turmoil, but the political dust has to settle and the Russian people need to survive. Businesses must, therefore, find their own niche because this is what entrepreneurship is about. If you wait for everything to be safe, it would be too late for you to make the entry," he said.

Some lucrative joint-venture projects proposed at the meeting yesterday included a massive housing project in Moscow to house local residents and foreigners in which companies like Intraco, DBS Land, and Straits Steamship are said to be interested parties and the deployment of Russian assets like heavy cranes and heavy lift helicopters for shipyard projects in Southeast Asia, which was raised by Sembawang Shipyard.

Rutskoy Advocates Economic Cooperation

BK0903111193 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 9 Mar 93 p 2

[Text] Singapore and Russia will set up a joint panel of government officials to explore prospects for joint ventures and economic opportunities in the region. This was agreed by Prime Minister [PM] Goh Chok Tong and Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy during their talks on Sunday, according to the PM's press secretary in a statement issued yesterday.

The two leaders discussed proposals to take advantage of Russian technology for commercial purposes and cooperation in such areas as shipbuilding, aviation, and land transport, including the manufacture of heavy vehicles.

Their hour-long talks, which were "purely economic," also focused on how to use the relative strengths of Russia and Singapore to explore opportunities in the region, the statement said.

Gen. Rutskoy said the two sides would soon hold seminars on cooperation in agricultural technology and defence-related manufacturing which he would personally oversee.

Two defence cooperation seminars were planned—the first in Singapore next month and the second in Russia in June, he told an airport news conference before he left for home yesterday at the end of a two-day visit.

The seminar in Russia would be held at the manufacturers' plants so that Singapore officials would be able to see the technology and production lines available, he said.

Gen. Rutskoy, who earlier yesterday visited Singapore Technologies Holdings and its small arms company, Chartered Industries, said he had invited a team of its engineers to Moscow later this month. A Chartered Industries statement said the team would visit research laboratories and factories to explore possibilities for joint ventures in military and non-military areas.

Gen. Rutskoy, speaking through an interpreter, said there were several possibilities for coproduction of military equipment and aircraft such as helicopters. He suggested that Russia could begin by setting up assembly plants here to make such hardware using Russian components.

"Then it could become a centre for technical training of your personnel, a centre for technology transfer, and also a centre of distribution of coproduced items around the region," he said. Russia could supply to the region military and commercial hardware "as efficient and as reliable" as similar products offered by others but at "much lower cost."

He said another seminar to explore ways to cooperate in agro- technology would be held within six weeks in Russia which had vast expanses of land as well as agricultural expertise. People from Russia's farm and food processing industries would be invited to attend.

During his press conference, Gen. Rutskoy also downplayed the current crisis faced by Russian President Boris Yeltsin, who is engaged in a bitter power struggle with Parliament. Gen. Rutskoy, seen as a potential successor to Mr. Yeltsin, described the political problems as "transitional" as Russia moved to "a completely new political, economic, and social system."

He said the Constitution would be changed to create a clear division of power between the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government.

"At present, it is very hard to define who is responsible for what," he said. "Of course we'd prefer this transition to be much smoother, but we should not dramatise the situation." He said he was confident that the Congress of People's Deputies, which meets tomorrow, would "pursue economic and political reforms further."

Cambodia

UN Announces 5 More Vietnamese Troops Discovered

BK0903060393 Hong Kong AFP in English 0543 GMT 9 Mar 93

[By Sheri Prasso]

[Text] Phnom Penh, March 9 (AFP)—The head of the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), Yasushi Akashi, said Tuesday that U.N. investigators have found five more Vietnamese men in Cambodia who qualify as foreign forces and must be expelled.

Akashi was speaking to a working session of the Supreme National Council (SNC), which was missing its chairman Prince Norodom Sihanouk and most of its key members, including the representatives of the Khmer Rouge, Phnom Penh Prime Minister Hun Sen and FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful and Cooperative Cambodia] party chief Prince Norodom Ranariddh. Akashi said the five more men who qualify as foreign forces should be accepted back by Vietnam under terms of the 1991 Paris accords ending the civil war.

UNTAC announced March 1 that three men who were born in Vietnam and who served with the Vietnamese occupation forces in Cambodia between 1975 and 1989 still resided in the country and must be repatriated.

But the Vietnamese ambassador to Cambodia, Tran Huy Chuong, read a statement reiterating his government's earlier position that these men have become Cambodian citizens and will not be welcome back into Vietnam.

"I cannot accept that rejection," Akashi said, as the meeting then disintegrated into bickering over the definition of Vietnamese forces in Cambodia.

Phnom Penh Defense Minister Tie Banh said two of the three men UNTAC had originally said were Vietnamese foreign forces were born in Cambodia, were of low rank, and would be allowed to stay.

"It is immaterial whether they were born in Cambodia or not. It is also immaterial whether they are generals or soldiers. It is also immaterial whether these soldiers at present serve with foreign forces under the direction of a foreign government," Akashi said.

"I don't think it is relevant whether the soldiers in question defected from the Vietnamese army or whether the persons are married to Cambodians or not," Akashi said, flatly stating that the parties must abide by the agreement.

"Rather than continue with this debate, we should ask the representatives of these parties to get together with my legal counsel for clarification," he said. "If they want to reintroduce a new definition...it is of course their liberty to do so."

Akashi called for the meeting on March 12.

Turning to the political environment in Cambodia, Akashi said the conditions were not yet ripe for an election.

However, he noted that acts of political violence have decreased from 65 in the month of October, to 32 in February.

"The basic minimum conditions (for the election) are not yet in place in Cambodia," Akashi said. "The situation is still not satisfactory in my view."

He also urged the Phnom Penh government to open up its television station to its political opponents for the election campaign, and said U.N. civilian police will protect political rallies during the campaign period beginning April 7. He urged all parties participating in the election to accept the outcome, rather than challenge it if they lose. "There is no way for grownup adults to have their cake and eat it too," Akashi said.

MOULINAKA Claims 1.5 Million Members

BK0803084993 Phnom Penh KAOH SANTEPHEAP in Cambodian 27 Feb 93 pp 1, 2

[Text] Mr. Meas Boret, on behalf of KAOH SANTEPHEAP, interviewed Mr. Prum Neakareach, chairman of MOULINAKA, or Movement of Khmer Freedom Fighters Party, at 1000 on 20 February.

In the interview, Mr. Prum Neakareach stressed the following: If MOULINAKA wins the elections, like the other parties, it has the intention of rebuilding the country. I am not going to talk about things that the other parties are also going to do; I want to talk about things that are different.

If MOULINAKA wins, we would have an entirely new name for Cambodia... we are not going to call it Cambodia anymore. The new name would be Vongpheak

Borei or Vongkat Borei [the Mythical City of the Himalaya Mountains] in accordance with Lord Buddha's predictions. We would also move the capital from Phnom Penh to a new, more prosperous locality. We support Samdech Euv, [Prince Sihanouk] and we defend Samdech Euv as head of state for life. We assure you that we will honor the Paris agreement; create a coalition administration to lead the nation toward progress and prosperity with freedom; and guarantee all kinds of freedom for the citizens, such as freedom of expression, freedom to criticize, religious freedom, and freedom to make a living. We are going to rebuild the nation in a liberal democratic way using various modern methods and guarantee the country anything that Samdech Euv stands for, namely independence, peace, neutrality, and democracy. We are going to expand Cambodia's territory by another 2,000 square km and turn the Cambodian territorial waters into another Hong Kong. Hong Kong's term will expire in 1997; it is time for us to create another Hong Kong in our country. This point is very important and it is our principled stand.

The MOULINAKA Party will not field a presidential candidate. We do not daydream nor do we entertain any illusions. We defend and follow Samdech Euv. We have no intention of taking his place.

If and when MOULINAKA wins, we would ask the international community to ensure that neighboring countries recognize our frontiers which the United Nations recognized in 1953, and we promise to ensure peace within Cambodia. We ask Cambodians to be brave on the international stage as well. Do not be brave by fighting one another inside the country only. Not only do we ask others to recognize our 1953 borders, we also intend to expand our territory from 181,000 to 183,000 square km without committing aggression against any neighboring countries. We have gold, gems, and gasoline in our land. Our party will invest in order to develop the economy. We have capital to promote the economy, so we need not borrow money from anyone.

Concerning the neutral political environment for the upcoming elections, the chairman of MOULINKA underlined: UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] can share this task. In order to have a neutral environment, UNTAC must get a 50,000 to 100,000-strong civilian police under its command one month ahead of the elections. And to be honest, my guess is that the State of Cambodia fully supports this idea.

The party chairman stressed: MOULINAKA was born in 1977 with the late Kong Saloah leading the fighting at the [northwestern] border and his taking charge of liaison aborad. It was then supported by and merged into the FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] Party under the leadership of Prince Norodom Ranariddh. He said that later, because Prince Ranariddh did not recognize his share in the jungle fighting, he rounded up all the fighters and formed a separate party currently known as MOULINAKA or Movement of Khmer Freedom Fighters Party. This party has mobilized fighters of all experiences, including ex-convicts, the handicapped, men who were deserted by their wives, and the have-nots of the land.

In my estimation, MOULINAKA already counts 1.5 million among its members. I came up with this figure by multiplying the number of veteran members by three because each person must have his parents, relatives, or children who would sympathize with him.

In this interview Mr. Prum Neakareach stressed: I do not believe there is a party that is more patriotic than MOULINAKA.

This is because when he was waging the struggle, he did not know what all the other parties were doing.

Mr. Prum Neakareach appealed to the brothers who used to wage the struggle with him and many who have spent time in jails to return to the party's fold. His party is ready to welcome them at any time.

The party chairman cited a slogan: All Cambodians are the blood brothers of the party; therefore, all parties are the offspring of MOULINAKA which has spawned them all.

Mr. Prum Neakareach, formerly known as Prum Vannari, is 52 years old and was born in Kompong Trabek District, Prey Veng Province. He is a three-star vice admiral and a graduate of France's naval school.

UN Wants Troops Charged With Murder Detained

BK0803050893 Hong Kong AFP in English 0447 GMT 8 Mar 93

[Text] PHNOM PENH, March 8 (AFP)—The U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) said Monday it would arrest seven Phnom Penh government soldiers for murdering political party workers, but only if they surrender.

The soldiers based in Battambang province allegedly abducted, beat and murdered four members of the opposition FUNCINPEC [National Union Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful and Cooperative Cambodia] party who returned from refugee camps on the Thai border last year.

UNTAC, however, cannot find the bodies and can only charge the soldiers with "alleged murder," along with illegal confinement, battery and infringement of rights, U.N. spokesman Eric Falt said.

UNTAC had informed Prime Minister Hun Sen that it had enough evidence to make the arrests, and asked the government to arrest them or at least detain the men in their army barracks so that an UNTAC team could arrest them.

"No serious efforts were made to find the abductees or to bring the offenders to justice," Falt quoted a letter from UNTAC chief Yasushi Akashi to Hun Sen as saying.

Hun Sen responded that it had no evidence against the men, and that UNTAC evidence should be handed over to the government, Falt said.

However, Falt said that the evidence was based on the testimony of 70 to 80 villagers who witnessed the abductions, and that UNTAC had no intention of telling the government about the testimonies.

He conceded that because the government had not cooperated until now, UNTAC could not expect to the men to be available for arrest. The UNTAC police and military team would instead leave warrants for their arrest in the hands of their senior officers, Falt said.

"If they are present, we will arrest them and bring them to Phnom Penh to face trial," he said "We're not going to look throughout the countryside for them."

Hun Sen Chairs CPP Electoral Preparation Session

BK0903063793 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 9 Mar 93

[Text] An internal session of the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] to discuss preparations for constituent elections was held on 9 March under the chairmanship of His Excellency [H.E.] Hun Sen, vice chairman of the CPP and chairman of the Council of Ministers of the State of Cambodia.

Attending the session were the Standing Committee members of the CPP Central Committee, members of the CPP Central Committee, leading officials from party-government institutions, provinces, and districts.

H.E. Hun Sen made a thorough explanation of the CPP platform dealing with political, military, security, and economic work. The platform clearly emphasizes CPP's firm adherance to the general line of siding with the people in all circumstances and serving the people's lofty interests. The CPP's cause of struggle is the correct cause for the survival and prosperity of the nation. It is a difficult and complex struggle. But no matter how difficult and complex it may be, thanks to the fact that the CPP has a correct guideline—that is siding with the people, sharing weal and woe with them, and serving the people and national interests—the CPP and our people throughout the country could surmount all obstacles, liberate the country from the genocidal Pol Pot-Ieng Sary-Khieu Samphan clique, and revive and rebuild the country until today.

H.E. Hun Sen said that the CPP would do everything possible to end the war and bring about genuine peace. Genuine peace is a peace that can prevent the genocidal regime from returning to power and ensure the safety of social achievements and people's property. In whatever circumstances and whichever conditions, the CPP remains a political party which takes the lead in protecting human rights and opposes the return of the genocidal regime. The CPP defends the people's interests by maintaining the present legal ownership of plots of land, houses, property, production means, (?money), and [words indistinct]. Meanwhile, it ensures the correct implementation of the agreements signed with companies investing in Cambodia.

Concerning the economic field, H.E. Hun Sen stressed that rural development was the primary policy of the CPP with an aim of reducing the gap in the living standards between rural and urban areas.

Troops in Kompong Thom Allegedly Mutiny

BK0603040493 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 5 Mar 93

[Excerpt] According to reports from Kompong Thom, a commander of the Yuon's [derogatory term for Vietnamese] puppets in the 2d Military Region with the rank of a colonel, along with over 70 puppet officers and soldiers, mutinied against the Yuon enemy aggressors and leaders of the Yuon's puppets. They angrily opened fire on the Yuon and puppet soldiers in San Kor. The reports also say these protesting puppet soldiers killed two soldiers of the Yuon and puppets and wounded a number of others; freed five people; and then fled home. [passage omitted]

Khmer Rouge Activities in Pursat Reported

BK0603053093 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 5 Mar 93

[Text] On 2 March in Kompong Luong commune, Krakor District, Pursat Province, a group of 12 armed Khmer Rouge soldiers in a boat ambushed a group of eight people and a person who was out fishing. Our military forces fired back. However, the Khmer Rouge opened intense fire on our people, killing three and wounding one. The Khmer Rouge also abducted one person and confiscated their fishing gear. That night, they demanded 1 million riel and 10 damloeng [a weight unit equivalent to 37.5 grams] of gold for the release of the hostage.

People Liberate 2 Districts From 'Puppets'

BK0603033293 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 5 Mar 93

[Text] According to reports from Kompong Thom and Siem Reap provinces, from 2 to 4 March 1993, people, soldiers, police, and officials of the puppet administration united, staged demonstrations, and attacked the Yuon [derogatory term for Vietnamese] enemy aggressors and puppets in Stoung District and Stoung District seat in Kompong Thom, and in Chikreng District and Chikreng District seat in Siem Reap Province.

The reports further say that people, soldiers, police, and officials of the puppet administration are furious with the Yuon aggressors and their puppets and have been revolting for a month. The Yuon enemy aggressors and their puppets have dispatched forces to put down revolts and have killed many demonstrators. This has made people, soldiers, police, and officials of the puppet administration even more angry. The people have been fighting back against the Yuon enemy aggressors and puppets using a combination of traditional, semi-modern, and modern weapons to attack and chase out the Yuon enemy and puppets from Stoung and Chikreng Districts. Now the forces of the people, soldiers, police, and officials of the puppet administration are in complete control in these two districts.

This force is made up of the Cambodian people who have been victims of maltreatment and massacres carried out by the Yuon enemy and their puppets for the past 14 years. Before the Paris agreement, the people were massacred by the Yuon and the puppets; after the agreement, they are still being massacred by the Yuon and the puppets.

Thus, the Cambodian people are up to their necks with anger with the Yuon enemy aggressors and puppets. The people have united and are more vigorously fighting everywhere.

SPK Rounds Up Late-Feb Khmer Rouge Activities

BK0703074693 Phnom Penh SPK in French 1122 GMT 6 Mar 93

[Text] Phnom Penh 6 Mar (SPK)—On 26 February at 1000 (local time), the Khmer Rouge used mines to blow up a vehicle in Srei Snam District, Siem Reap Province, according to a source at the Commission for Military Cooperation with the United Nations.

The explosion, which took place on Route 68 (Kralanh-Samraong), killed five and wounded 10 passengers, said the source who added:

The same day, a group of about 40 Khmer Rouge bandits from Division 980 attacked and razed Khna (76-80) village, 5 km from the provincial town. Three villagers were killed and seven others were wounded. The assailants took one person hostage when they retreated.

On 27 February Khmer Rouge guerrillas simultaneously attacked government positions at Kouk Thlork Kraom and Russei in Chikreng District.

In Kompong Thom Province on 25 February, a truck from Prasat Sambo District was damaged in the afternoon by a mine planted by the Khmer Rouge at O Sandan (V.V. 15-00). One person was wounded.

On 27 February, an UNTAC vehicle patrolling Route 62 was stopped in Santuk District by a group of Khmer Rouge soldiers who forced the Indonesian Blue Berets to hand over 12 rifles, a pistol, and a walkie-talkie. The source however noted that the vehicle was returned to the Blue Berets after government troops at Krayea post intervened.

In Preah Vihear Province on 26 February, between 70 and 80, Democratic Kampuchea soldiers opened fire on a government position in Kulen district. No damage was reported.

On 28 February, some 100 guerrillas from Pol Pot's Division 616 again attacked this position which was provisionally abandoned by government troops after a three-hour clash. In their retreat, the assailants took with them 136 families.

Still on 28 February, some 40 Khmer Rouge soldiers from Divisions 616 and 612 attacked another government position in Sadao village in Sangkum Thmei District. Three houses were burned and one person seriously was wounded.

Khmer Rouge Violations in Siem Reap Reported

BK0903091393 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 8 Mar 93

[Text] The Khmer Rouge insurgents early in March stepped up their savage violations against regions controlled by the State of Cambodia in Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey Province.

As a matter of fact, in Chikreng District from 3 to 4 March, a group of Khmer Rouge insurgents in cooperation with MOULINAKA [pro-Sihanouk group] forces of the 15th Regiment harassed Tralaok commune and sent 30 men to raid Srakak village.

In Sot Nikum District at 0730 on 4 March, Khmer Rouge insurgents mined point 69/10 at Spean Chrey in Ta Yek commune. A water truck blew up when it hit the mine. As a result, 11 villagers were injured, three of them seriously.

In Puok District at 1330 on 4 March, our forces engaged a group of Khmer Rouge insurgents for 30 minutes in the Roneam forest south of National Route 6. We killed four insurgents, wounded five others, and seized three firearms and a large quantity of ammunition and war materiel.

Indonesia

Editorial Views Sutrisno VP Nomination

BK0903052593 Jakarta THE JAKARTA POST in English 24 Feb 93 p 4

[Editorial: "The Reason Why"]

[Text] Although official explanations have been aired concerning the reasons why the Armed Forces (ABRI) faction in the People's Consultative Assembly (MPR) decided to nominate General Try Sutrisno as their candidate for vice president, many people believe there must be something more behind the move.

One might remember that when the ABRI faction's chairman, Lieutenant General Harsudiyono Hartas, made the surprise announcement some two weeks ago, he cited the reason that Gen. Try meets all the criteria for holding the post of vice president. He also said monitoring done by the Armed Forces revealed the selection of Try reflected the aspirations of the ABRI "family", as well as of most of the people in Indonesia.

ABRI's criteria for vice president, according to Harsudiyono, revolved around the fact that the candidate must be able to lead all of the nation's people. The candidate must also have vision, which is reflected in the way he thinks, acts and formulates his concepts. He should also have the ability to unite the nation and to be accepted by every party and group in the country.

True to some people's expectations, recently more light has been shed on the motives behind ABRI's move. It came in a statement from Harsudiyono Hartas made after the ceremony to transfer the command of ABRI from Gen. Try Sutrisno to General Edi Sudrajat last weekend.

Harsudiyono said that of late more indications had surfaced that Indonesia is in danger of disintegration. The threat comes from "certain Indonesian intellectuals" with "western-oriented minds" which recently have expanded their "mission" which tends to divide and to disrupt the national unity. "They fight for certain issues such as environment, freedom, democracy and human rights merely as a pretext", Harsudiyono was reported to have said.

Harsudiyono cited as an example the idea recently aired by an intellectual that the police force should be separated from ABRI. Such an idea, in Harsudiyono's opinion, came from "an individualistic way of thinking."

These indications, according to Harsudiyono, prompted ABRI to nominate Gen. Try at the earliest opportunity for the post of vice president for the next five-year term. Try is considered the candidate capable of anticipating the threat of national disintegration which is looming over us.

While acknowledging that Harsudiyono's viewpoint is not new—many officials have voiced similar views for some time—we cannot help but wonder if that is the full reason behind ABRI's nomination of Gen. Try as vice president? Our next question concerns how and why such a viewpoint was formulated and in which direction that viewpoint leads.

We understand that certain conditions may lead to certain ways of thinking. In the case of ABRI, almost five decades as the vanguard of the nation's freedom and unity seems to have led them to believe it is best not to take unnecessary risks and that they always be on the alert for any possible danger.

Yet, we believe that most of the people here who insist on speaking out about freedom, human rights and the environment are, in a way, also nationalists who—like ABRI—do not want to see the nation disintegrate into chaotic nothingness.

We have to admit there are still many shortcomings in the implementation of human rights and freedom here, and the fact that the authorities—including ABRI—are trying to improve the situation shows that we all really are concerned about the problem.

We, therefore, believe that we should not view those issues from a perspective of black and white. If we insist on doing so we could well find ourselves trapped into a one-track-mind way of thinking through which we will run the danger of seeing ghosts lurking behind every door.

Industrial Exports Projected To Exceed $18 Billion

BK0503081593 Jakarta THE JAKARTA POST in English 10 Feb 93 p 8

[Text] Jakarta (JP)—Indonesia's exports of industrial goods are expected to surpass the initial projection of US$18.19 billion in the 1992/93 fiscal year, which will end in March.

Minister of Industry Hartarto said here yesterday the development of exports for industrial goods was very encouraging especially in the first ten months of last year because of an increase in the competitive edge for the country's manufacturing products.

"Exports of industrial commodities rose by over 26 percent to US$15.7 billion in the period between January and October last year," he told the House of Representatives (DPR) in a hearing.

The minister said the sharp increase in exports of industrial goods would likely continue and surpass the target. Exports of industrial commodities are projected to rise by 18 percent to around US$18.19 billion in the current 1992/93 fiscal year from the US$15.37 billion figure for the 1991/92 fiscal year.

Hartarto told the House's Commission VI on Industries, Energy and Mining the value of exports between January and October alone had reached around US$15.7 billion, accounting for over 84 percent of the total non-oil exports, which reached US$18.57 billion during the ten-month period. He said the percentile contribution of exports of industrial goods to the country's total exports during the ten-month period rose to 57.78 percent from around 51.86 percent for the same period in 1991.

"Monthly exports from the industrial sector passed the US$2 billion figure in October, indicating an increase in the competitiveness of our industrial products," the minister said.

Exports for general industry's products such as textile and paper manufacturers rose by 28.5 percent to

US$11.05 billion in the January-October period from US$8.59 billion during the same period in 1991.

Exports of machinery basic metals and electronics increased by 51.79 percent to US$1.36 billion from US$896.37 million. Exports of small-scale industries rose by 17.9 percent from $1.36 billion to $1.6 billion while chemical industrial exports rose only by 9.7 percent to $996.52 million from $907.89 million in the same period.

Junior Minister of Industry Tungki Ariwibowo, Director General of Machinery, Basic Metals and Electronics Suparno, Director General of Basic Chemical Industries Wardiyasa, Director General of General Industries Susanto Saharjo and Director General of Small-scale Industries Trisura Suhadi also joined the hearing.

Hartarto said exports from, the industrial sector were still dominated by medium-scale industries such as textiles and electronics, which rank first in terms of the value of their exports.

The second ranking goes to small-scale industries while third place is held by large manufacturing companies which mostly produce raw materials for small- and medium-scale industries.

Hartarto said the industrial development strategy in the coming years would focus on higher value added products by the introduction of more sophisticated technology. The strategy is expected to raise exports for Indonesia's industrial goods to around US$50 billion by the end of the next five-year development plan, which will begin in 1994, Hartarto said.

The minister said the government would also encourage the development of service industries in the next five-year development plan, including engineering and industrial consulting services.

Foreign, Domestic Investment Figures Announced

BK0603101093 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0754 GMT 6 Mar 93

[Text] Jakarta, March 6 (ANTARA)—Chemical industry has been the biggest sector in absorbing foreign investment in Indonesia since [passage indistinct], said an official of the Investment Coordinating Board (BKPM) here on Saturday.

Since the endorsement of the Law on Foreign Investment in 1967, an amount of 25 trillion rupiah (12.5 billion U.S. dollars) of foreign investment with 97 projects has been made in the chemical industrial sector.

The official said that the investment in the chemical sector accounted to 20 percent of the total foreign investment during the period, which stood at 126 trillion rupiah (63 billion U.S. dollars).

The second biggest sector receiving foreign investment is the hotel sector with an investment worth 13 trillion rupiah (101 projects) or about 6.5 billion U.S. dollars.

According to the BKPM data, the mining sector is ranked third with projects numbering [figure indistinct] valued at 11 trillion rupiah.

The chemical sector is also the biggest to receive domestic investment with 897 projects ammounting to 34 trillion rupiah (17 billion U.S. dollars), or about 16 percent of the domestic investment of 216 trillion rupiahs (107 billion U.S. dollars).

In term of project number, the textile industry topped the list with 1,171 projects, but in term of value, this sector is only ranked at the second position, absorbing 30 trillion rupiah (15 billion U.S. dollars) or about 14 per cent.

Paper industry is listed in the third position with 294 projects worth 26 trillion rupiahs.

Domestic investment made in the mining sector was only 2.4 trillion with 126 projects, making this sector to be ranked at the 18th position.

Ministers Launch Bintan Industrial Estate Project

BK0503005193 Jakarta THE INDONESIA TIMES in English 22 Feb 93 p 3

[Text] Batam—Lim Boon Heng, Singapore senior minister of state for trade and industry, said in Bintan Island, Riau Friday that this neighbour island was an ideal location for Singapore small business.

Speaking to the INDONESIA TIMES following a ground-breaking ceremony of Bintan Industrial Estate (BIE), the Singapore minister said that he recognized the cost of doing business in Singapore was now getting higher. "Therefore, he said. [as published] "It's better for the Singapore small businessmen to go to Bintan Island because the cost is relatively cheaper."

Lim said that he was pleased to know the Singapore businessmen were granted a 100-percent ownership in their operation here with the Indonesian partners, saying that it would attract more Singapore investors to come to the island. The 100-percent ownership will be allowed for the first 5 years of operation with a divestment requirement of 5 percent thereafter.

The launching of the BIE development is a part of the integrated development of Bintan Island under "Sijori" (Singapore-Johor-Riau) cooperation program. The extension of Bintan Island into industrial development is expected to generate new investment opportunities and create new job opportunities.

The initial development, comprising 52.5 hectares, is expected to be completed by mid-1994. BIE is modelled after the Batam Industrial Park (BIP) and is developed by the same joint venture partners (STIC—Singapore

Technological and Industrial Corporation—, Salim Group, and Jurong Environmental Engineering).

While BIP caters for electronics-related industries, the BIE will be for light industries such as textile/garment, woodworking, furniture, toys products. This phase of the BIE development will offer 22,000 square meters of standard factory space and 50,000 square meters of custom-built factory space. The total investment for Phase I is estimated to be US $60 million. The BIE has already received five letters of intent from garment and furniture manufacturers to set up operation.

Tungky Ariwibowo, the Indonesian junior minister of Industry, who jointly inaugurated the BIE ground-breaking ceremony, said that the most significant thing of the BIE development was that a large number of jobs would be created by the project. Around 6,000 workers will be required following its completion.

Minister Ariwibowo said that he hoped the people in this area to fully support the implementation of the project. For the people of Riau, Bintan in particular, this project will certainly create an opportunity to participate in its development process, which is expected to ultimately raise their welfare.

Earlier to the BIE ground-breaking ceremony, both Singapore Minister Lim and Indonesian Minister Ariwibowo attended the commencement of construction for the Bintan Lagoon Beach and Golf Resort. Situated on a 300-hectare piece of land, the Bintan Lagoon is a joint venture development between Singapore's STIC member companies, SAFE [expansion unknown] Enterprise and companies from the Kintetsu Group of Japan, the Salim Group of Indonesia, and Straits Steamship Land and Temasek Holdings.

The total invested is estimated to be U.S. $200 million, including the construction of a 4-star hotel complex with 400 rooms, three championship 18-hole golf courses, a signature course by the sea designed by golf legend Jack Nicklaus and 100 corporate resort villas. The resort complex is expected to be officially open by late 1994.

Earth Satellite Control Station Planned

BK0303154893 Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 16 Feb 93 p 3

[Excerpt] Jakarta—Indosat Co. Ltd., one of the state enterprises under the jurisdiction of the Department of Tourism, Posts, and Telecommunications, plans to make new investments worth 227 billion rupiah for, among other things, the construction of the fifth earth satellite control station in Jatiluhur with a view to enhancing international telecommunications services.

This was disclosed by Indosat Director Cahyono Suryodibroto when he accompanied parliament's Commission V on a working visit to the Indosat operations center in Jatiluhur on 15 February. The visit was led by the commission's vice chairman, Mohamed Diran.

Cahyono said that Indosat had provided international telecommunications services via the Intelsat (International Telecommunications Satellite Organization), Inmarsat (International Maritime Satellite Organization), as well as the submarine cable networks. The Jatiluhur station is in charge of several international communications gateways, namely, for two submarine cable systems and one satellite communications system for the Indian and Pacific Oceans. As such, it is capable of providing direct communications services between Indonesia and other countries in the two regions. [passage omitted]

Laos

Government Holds First Meeting, Issues News Release

BK0803140193 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 8 Mar 93

["News release" issued by the Prime Minister's Office on 8 March 1993]

[Text] From 4 to 8 March 1993, the first meeting of the government was held at the government meeting hall of the Prime Minister's Office under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Khamtai Siphandon. The meeting discussed the following issues: consulting with one another on preparations for implementing the socioeconomic plan from now until the year 2000, and the 1993 budget plan adopted and approved by the National Assembly; expressing views and commenting on the government's draft working plan, the law on the government, the working regulations of government, and a decree on the regulations dealing with state employees; and some other issues.

In studying and commenting on the plan on translating into reality and organizing the implementation of the socioeconomic development plan, the meeting stressed adopting measures and methods and a timetable of execution in a clear-cut manner to ensure that the plan and expected targets are genuinely realized. After that, the meeting commented on the government's draft working plan, the law on the government, the government's working regulations, and the decree on regulations dealing with state employees. After expressing numerous views on these issues, the meeting has assigned the Prime Minister's Office with changing some aspects of the work to make it more firm in substance and responsibility.

In conclusion, the prime minister hailed all members of the government for attentively expressing their views with a sense of responsibility which is very useful to the overall management of the government.

[Dated] Vientiane, 8 March

The Prime Minister's Office

Khambou Sounisai Presents Draft Act on Assembly

BK0703095093 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 24 Feb 93

[Text] At the final session of the inaugural meeting of the third National Assembly at the Main Hall of the National Assembly on 24 February, Khamboui Sounisai, vice chairman of the third National Assembly and chief of the Assembly's Commission for Legal Affairs, presented a draft act on the National Assembly.

After that, Keyoun Gnot-saiviboun, deputy chief of the Commission for Legal Affairs of the National Assembly, read the draft act on the National Assembly.

The act comprises nine chapters and a total of 57 articles. The nine chapters are as follows:

Chapter 1: The overall principle;
Chapter 2: The organizational structure of the National Assembly;
Chapter 3: The National Assembly meetings;
Chapter 4: The National Assembly chairman and deputy chairmen;
Chapter 5: The Standing Committee of the National Assembly;
Chapter 6: Welfare for the National Assembly members;
Chapter 7: The proposal for consideration of the draft acts;
Chapter 8: The membership of the National Assembly;
Chapter 9: The final code.

PRC Delivers 2 New Passenger Planes

BK0603093593 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0430 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Text] Following a purchase contract between the Ministry of National Defense of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR] and the Aviation Technology Import-Export Company of the People's Republic of China, the official hand over ceremony of two (Y-7) passenger aircraft was held at the Wattai International Airport, Vientiane, on the afternoon of 1 March.

The two planes were bought from the PRC's aviation technology import-export company by the Ministry of National Defense.

Representing the Chinese side at the hand over ceremony was (Li Sumao), head of the delegation of the PRC's Ministry of Aeronautics and Astronautics, while the Lao side was represented by Lieutenant General [Lt. Gen.] Boun-eua Inthakouma, head of the Air Defense Division, the General Staff Department of the Lao People's Army [LPA]. The ceremony was held in the presence of Lt. Gen. Ai Souli-gnaseng, deputy minister of national defense and chief of the LPA General Staff Department, and Huang Guocai, PRC ambassador to the LPDR.

More Refugees Return Home from Southern China

BK0503150993 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 5 Mar 93

[Text] Reports from Luang Namtha Province said that on 2 March 43 families of 198 Lao refugees living in southern China voluntarily returned home through Boten-Bohan crossing point along the Sino-Lao border. In Luang Namtha Province, the returnee Lao refugees were warmly welcomed by authorities of the social welfare service of the province and representatives of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees [UNHCR] in Laos.

This is the first batch of Lao refugees who have voluntarily returned home in 1993. After temporarily taking a rest in the province, the refugges were subsequently sent to their respective native villages—19 to Vientiane Province, 6 to Xieng Khouang Province, (?11) to Vientiane Municipality, 70 to Savannakhet Province, 20 to Khammouane Province, 7 to Luang Prabang Province, 9 to Sayaboury Province, 19 to Saravane Province, 32 to Champassak Province, 8 to Luang Namtha Province, and 1 to Phong Saly Province. [all figures as heard]

So far, a total number of 2,249 Lao refugees living in southern China have voluntarily returned home. The repatriation of these Lao refugees has been sponsored by the UNHCR.

Ministry Issues Regulation on Satellite Equipment

BK0303105893 Vientiane KPL in English 0913 GMT 3 Mar 93

[Text] Vientiane, March 3 (KPL)—The Ministry of Information and Culture has recently issued a regulation on the importation and making use of satellite receiving equipment.

The regulation published by the PASASON daily today indicated that all institutions and persons, local and foreign, have the right to import and make use of the equipment. However, the importation must receive the authorisation from the Ministry of Information and Culture or from the Information and Culture Service of the province concerned.

With the exception of the embassies and international organisations, fees of U.S. dollars 100 must be paid. Various forms of penalties will be imposed on those who do not apply to the regulations.

President Receives Head of UN Population Fund

BK0503034993 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 2 Mar 93

[Text] Nouhak Phoumsavan, president of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR], received a courtesy call from Dr. Nafis Sadik, executive director of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities [UNFPA], at the Presidential Office in Vientiane on 2 March. On this occasion, the LPDR president exchanged views with the guest on many issues connected to the present and future development of the Lao people. He noted in this regard that the Lao population has continually increased and that the Lao Government has all along attached importance to this problem with the intention of balancing the population increase with economic development.

President Nouhak Phoumsavan also welcomed the visit to Laos of Dr. Nafis Sadik, a visit which he said has contributed to further promoting and expanding the understanding, cooperation, and assistance between the two sides.

On this occasion, Dr. Nafis Sadik presented a world population clock to our president for his convenience in following the world as well as Laos' population increase.

During the visit to Laos on this occasion, in addition to exchanging views with many notable Lao leaders, Dr. Nafis Sadik visited the Mahosot and Setthathilat hospitals. She also attended a ceremony marking the inauguration of the new office of the UNFPA to the LPDR. This office will create a new opportunity for the LPDR to receive an increased amount of aid funds from the UNFPA to improve the LPDR's capabilities in collecting and analyzing population data, managing the birth-spacing program, promoting the good health of mothers, and setting up mother and child care training centers both at the central and local levels. In addition, through the office the UNFPA can help the Lao Government achieve the goal of reducing maternal, infant, and child mortality by 25 percent by the year 2000 and continue to improve and adopt the socioeconomic plan and the development of health services in the LPDR.

French Delegation Calls on City Official

BK0903101493 Vientiane KPL in English 0908 GMT 9 Mar 93

[Text] Vientiane, March 9 (KPL)—Thongmani Thiphommachan, deputy secretary of the party committee and vice mayor of Vientiane Prefecture, yesterday received Ms. Dorothee Pinaut, rapporteur of the Council of State of France, on her good will visit to Laos.

Thongmani Thiphommchan, who is also member of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee (LPRP CC), expressed his pleasure for her visit and described it a contribution to the strengthening of the friendly relationship and cooperation and assistance between Laos and France.

Her visit is made in response to the invitation of the Office of the Prime Minister.

Water Shortage Reported in Luang Namtha Province

BK0903121693 Vientiane KPL in English 0909 GMT 9 Mar 93

[Text] Vientiane, March 9 (KPL)—Streams and rivers in Luang Namtha Province have now dried up. Under this circumstance, even gravity-fed water sytems cannot provide water to the residents of the municipality of the capital on this northern province. Drought is expected to be more serious and longer than previous years. This was disclosed by Saisouvan, in charge of water supply works of Luang Namtha.

In order to ease the problem, the local administration has allowed private sector to sell water to local residents at a rate of 2.5 kip a litre. Other measures to cope with the shortage include digging of wells.

According to Saisouvan, Luang Namtha normally lacks water between April and May. But this year, the period started earlier in late February and it is (?expected) to last till June.

Relief Rice Distributed Among Residents

BK0903115293 Vientiane KPL in English 0913 GMT 9 Mar 93

[Text] Vientiane, March 9 (KPL)—Relief officials of the Luang Namtha Province have recently distributed 23.3 tons of rice to 521 peasant families who have been affected by last year's drought. They are residents of 16 villages in three areas—Houa Namthung, Nakham, and Thong Pung—of Luang Namtha District.

The rice given was in framework of the id [as received] worth (?505) million kip grant of the government to the northern province.

According to the district chief, the distict administration plans to promote and boost fixed farming due to the effect of the drought, improve the living conditions of the local people, and to reduce slash-and-burn practices step by step.

Philippines

Ramos Makes Airport Statement, Departs for Japan

HK0903032393 Manila DZXL Radio Mindanao Network in Tagalog 0141 GMT 9 Mar 93

[Statement by President Fidel V. Ramos at Ninoy Aquino Airport—live, in English]

[Text] Vice President Joseph Estrada, former President and Mrs. Diosdado Macapagal, Senate President Edgardo Angara, Speaker of the House of Representatives Jose de Venecia, Your Excellencies of the diplomatic corps, distinguished members of the Senate and of the House of Representatives, fellow workers in government, my dear countrymen. [preceding three words in Tagalog]

At the invitation of his majesty the emperor, I leave today on a state visit to Japan. In my delegation, apart from Mrs. Ramos and the secretaries of Foreign Affairs, Finance, Trade and Industry, Transportation and Communications, Interior and Local Government and

Energy and also the director general of the National Economic and Development Authority, the press secretary, the chairman of the Development Bank of the Philippines, Senator Leticia Shahani and Congressman Alberto Lopez, a group of Filipino business leaders led by former Ambassador to Japan Ramon del Rosario Sr. will be accompanying us to sign joint venture agreements and to invite other counterparts in Japan to examine the opportunities for trade, investment, and tourism which have opened up in our economy.

Mrs. Ramos and I look forward especially to being received by their majesties the emperor and the empress of Japan. My delegation and I also anticipate productive conversations with His Excellency the Prime Minister Mr. Kiichi Miyazawa and the members of his cabinet, and we look forward to meeting with the highest leaders in the Japanese Parliament.

I consider this visit to be particularly important, and I am gratified that it is taking place this early in my presidency.

Japan is Asia's leading economic power. That Tokyo is hosting in July this year a meeting of the heads of government of the world's seven leading industrial nations affirms its preeminent place in international economy. Japan's economic stature calls for a commensurate role in helping to enhance the stability and sustained progress of our Asia-Pacific region and of the world. Our government welcomes such a role for Japan.

This visit gives me and the Philippine delegation an opportunity to obtain at the highest levels and at this critical time Japan's view on the nature and the direction of the changes that the world and our region are undergoing. This visit shall enable us to know what role Japan intends to assume in the region and in the world.

I also intend to take this opportunity to give the leaders of Japan our own view of the political and economic developments around us, especially in the ASEAN area and in East Asia as a whole. My delegation and I shall also inform the government and the business leaders of Japan and the Japanese people as a whole of what we in the Philippines have accomplished in the last few months in restoring political stability, liberalizing our economy, building up our infrastructure, setting up investment incentives and ensuring effective executive-legislative collaboration.

Japan is our country's leading source of foreign investments, its second-largest export market, its leading source of development assistance, and one of the principal sources of tourist visitors to our shores. Almost 100,000 Filipinos live and work in Japan. So we expect this visit to result in specific achievements in trade, aid and financing arrangements.

We are, however, not going with our palms outstretched, but to strengthen our partnership with a close neighbor, a partnership based on mutual economic benefit and common security concerns.

We are scheduled to meet with Japan's foremost business leaders and captains of industry, singly and in groups, in Tokyo and Osaka. We intend to tell them of the new liberalized and stable environment we have created for investments in the Philippines.

And in our talks with Japanese Government leaders we will discuss how, together, the Philippine and Japanese Governments can improve the conditions for Japanese investments in our country and for trade and tourism between our two countries.

One of the most important elements of a favorable investment climate is a technologically proficient and internationally oriented work force. Our two governments can cooperate in the development of such a work force.

A vital link in the Philippine-Japanese partnership is the human interaction between individual Filipinos and Japanese. We shall bring up this matter with our Japanese friends, including the situation of Filipino workers in Japan.

I am confident we shall return from this visit with relations between our two countries, in all aspects, strengthened and enhanced.

On this mission of goodwill and opportunity, we shall, as always, be sustained by your faith and support. I seek your prayers for our success and safe return. I leave our beloved Philippines briefly for this mission, assured that our country is secure against any threat of whatsoever nature. And so may the Good Lord keep us all safe until we meet again four days from now. Thank you all. Long live the Philippines. [preceding two sentences in Tagalog]

Editorial Views Redefinition of U.S. Ties

HK0903033193 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 9 Mar 93 p 4

[Editorial: "Reformulating U.S.-Philippines Ties"]

[Text] President Ramos and President Clinton of the United States have opened lines of communications that are likely to lead to the redefinition of the relationship between the two countries.

The establishment of their links were revealed when Malacanang asked for a review "on the highest level" of their relationship in response to Mr Clinton's letter praising Mr Ramos's economic reform and political stability program.

The beginning of the review comes at a time when Mr Clinton is still hammering into shape his administration's Asian policy, which has since his inauguration been given low priority in his agenda and which has been the object of conjecture by American's allies in the Asia-Pacific region. The more immediate attention given by the Clinton administration to the crises areas of the world—for example, the Balkans war, the conflict with

Iraq and the famine in Somalia—has heavily accented Clinton's foreign policy with a Middle Eastern and Atlanticist flavor.

The fact that one of the Asian countries which President Clinton has shown interest during the formative months of his Asian policy is the Philippines augurs well for reformulating our bilateral relations with the U.S. on a more realistic and contemporary basis.

President Ramos and President Clinton took office in a new international environment characterized by the collapse of communism, the decline of the U.S. as the most powerful economic nation on earth, the reduction of U.S. military presence in the Asia-Pacific region, and the rise of new economic power centers in the region—Japan, China, and the newly-industrializing economies (South Korea, Taiwan and Singapore) and the growing economies of Asean.

Necessarily, this environment requires new terms of relationship which allow no return to the Philippine-U.S. ties prior to the withdrawal of the U.S. forces from their bases at Subic and Clark.

The foreign ministries of Asian nations have, since Mr Clinton's inauguration, watched with anxiety his intentions about Asia. They are puzzled why, despite the fact that the U.S. is the biggest trading partner and market of the NICs [newly industrialized countries] and Japan, and the fact that Asia-Pacific is developing as the most dynamic economic region in the last decade of the century, Asia is virtually absent from Mr Clinton's view of the world.

The anxieties of the Asian countries have further been heightened by the fact that in the Clinton administration's foreign policy team headed by the Secretary of State, Warren Christopher, there is hardly any Asianist, save for Winston Lord, the assistant secretary of state for East Asian affairs. Mr Lord is an old China hand, and if at all, his appointment indicates priority given by the Clinton administration to China, pushing relations with Japan to a lower notch. There is no indication at this stage how Mr Clinton will handle the tension-filled trade relations with Japan, the U.S.' most important ally in the region. It is sad that now that the Soviet security threat has nearly disappeared in the region, the ties that formed and solidified U.S.-Japan alliance are being weakened by tensions over trade.

Judged from the friendly overtures of Mr Clinton to Mr Ramos, the Philippines appears to be getting a better deal from Washington than with President Reagan and President Bush. Mr Clinton has underlined trade as a key basis in the redefinition of our relations with the U.S., and we can't find too much fault in this emphasis. This is an economic decade—no longer primarily a security decade engendered by the Cold War. Mr Ramos has recognized that we cannot remain dependent on the U.S. in economic and security terms. Thus, there is now a meeting of the minds between Manila and Washington and a good starting point for developing a relationship in which dependency has ceased to be an issue.

The accent of the Clinton administration on human rights and on supporting democratic trends worldwide should be an advantage to the Philippines, which struggles to defend the compatibility between democracy and economic development. In this struggle, we are not asking for any special concession from the U.S. If in the end, democracy is made more vigorous because we have found a way to make it produce economic results, then, such an outcome should result from our own efforts.

Mr Clinton has expressed a desire to meet Mr Ramos at some convenient time, but at the same time, he hinted some anxieties over the lack of momentum for reform in Manila when he said that he hoped Mr Ramos could implement reform "rapidly to lay the basis for substantial growth."

NPA Cracks Down as Peace Talks Cause Division

HK0703032193 Quezon City ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corporation DZMM in Tagalog 0400 GMT 6 Mar 93

[Text] The New People's Army [NPA] in Quezon Province has launched a campaign against its members who want to participate in the peace talks initiated by the government. This was revealed by former NPA rebel Benito Casimiro, who surrendered recently to government troops in the province.

Brigadier General Romeo Padiernos, Armed Forces of the Philippines Civil Relations Service commander, said Casimiro told him the campaign was prompted by the division the peace process has caused within the NPA ranks.

Padiernos added that this division was worsened by the surrender of former NPA Banahaw Command chief Leopoldo "Comrade Hector" Mabilangan to President Fidel V. Ramos.

NPA Leader To Go Underground if Prosecuted

HK0803025093 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 7 Mar 93

[Text] Former New People's Army [NPA] Commander Leopoldo Mabilangan, alias Comrade Hector, has warned that he will return to the underground movement if the government pursues criminal charges filed against him. Mabilangan's warning came after Vice President Joseph Estrada, who is also head of the Presidential Anticrime Commission, decided to file kidnapping charges based on evidence gathered against the former NPA leader. Mabilangan surrendered to President Ramos under the amnesty program, but he was implicated by Ernesto Palo, a top Red Scorpion official, in that syndicate's kidnapping operations. Comrade Hector has denied the accusations and said the filing of charges against him shows the government's insincerity in its amnesty program.

Ramos Says Peace Process 'On Right Track'

HK0803025293 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in Tagalog 0000 GMT 8 Mar 93

[Text] National Unification Commission [NUC] Chairperson Haydee Yorac expects to reach concrete and positive developments on the government's peace efforts with all types of rebels in the next three weeks. Yorac said that NUC member Eduardo Ermita had spoken to Nur Misuari, chairman of the Moro National Liberation Front, adding that there is a great possibility for the peace talks to progress.

Meanwhile, President Ramos has stressed that peace talks with the rebel soldiers have not failed yet. Earlier, General Edgardo Abenina stated that they have suspended talks with the government due to a slow response to their points of concern and the government panel's lack of authority. Ramos said that, based on his talks with Yorac, the peace process is on the right track.

Police See NPA Hit Squad Offensive in Manila

HK0803071093 Quezon City ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corporation DZMM in Tagalog 0400 GMT 8 Mar 93

[Text] The Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army-Alex Boncayao Brigade [CPP-NPA-ABB] will intensify its offensive in Metro Manila. The Intelligence Division of the South Capital Command [South Capcom] reached this conclusion after a bemedalled South Capcom officer was killed last week. South Capcom said that after the assassination of Inspector Jacinto Medina, a close friend, Inspector Eligio Tagle, received death threats.

South Capcom added that these activities were part of the CPP-NPA-ABB summer political-military offensive to mark its anniversary on 29 March.

South Capcom also found that the ABB action had the approval of its general command despite the government's peace initiatives among the rebel groups in the country.

The authorities also stressed that although the CPP-NPA did not admit killing Medina, they discovered that several NPA operatives from Batangas have been fielded in Metro Manila to undertake operations against the government.

MNLF Urges Cessation of Fighting, Kidnapings

HK0903131693 Quezon City ABC-DWET Television in Tagalog 1000 GMT 9 Mar 93

[From the "ABC-DWET News Program"]

[Text] The Moro National Liberation Front's [MNLF] Basilan Revolutionary Command have indicated that they support the cessation of all cease-fire violations and kidnaping incidents in the province. They have also submitted a seven-point proposal which calls for support for the government's peace program and urges members of the MNLF lost command, suspected of being involved in several kidnap-for-ransom cases in the province, to surrender. They also called on the MNLF to declare a moratorium on all kidnapings in the province. (Yusus Atrap), alias Joey Tugung, said that the statement was endorsed by three MNLF zone commanders: (Ustad Bashiri), (Jam Jakilan), and a certain (Jowala).

Thailand

Police Break Up Demonstration Over Dam

BK0803015793 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 8 Mar 93 p 1

[Excerpts] Non-governmental organisations [NGO] and student environmentalists yesterday condemned the use of force to disperse villagers protesting against the Pak Mun dam in Ubon Ratchathani Province Saturday night. Authorities sent Border Patrol policemen and local police to forcefully break up the protest at Ban Hua Huai village, the dam's site.

The protesters withdrew after many were beaten by police. Some were also assaulted by supporters of the controversial dam. More than 30 people, including women and children, were injured, three seriously.

Chat Phatthana Party leader Chatchai Chunhawan attacked the Government for its late reaction to the confrontation which had been building up for days.

"The Opposition will take the Government to task," he said.

The site, where the dam is being built, was under tight security yesterday.

Mr Phaibun Watthanasiritham of the NGOs Coordinating Committee for Rural Development (NGO-CORD) urged the Government to take immediate action to prevent further violence. Mr Phaibun said the Government must provide medical treatment and compensation to the injured villagers. [passage omitted]

Interior Minister Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut said yesterday he had no knowledge about the use of force against the dam protesters in Pak Mun.

His remarks drew strong criticism from Mr Petcharat Siphaenphet, a member of the student conservationist movement of 16 universities, who called on both Gen Chawalit and Prime Minister Chuan to take responsibility for the violence.

The NGO-CORD yesterday also set up a fact-finding committee on the Pak Mun controversy. The committee will find out what led to the violence. Legal assistance will be provided to those who face charges. [passage omitted]

Deputy Commander of Zone 5 Provincial Police Pol Maj Wichian Phunsap defended the beating of villagers as a "protective measure."

"The demonstration had to be suppressed because it obstructed the work of the construction company which was losing a million baht a day due to work suspension."

Deputy Prime Minister Bunchu Rotchanasathian said yesterday the Government should review the construction of the dam. Mr Bunchu, who leads the Phalang Tham Party, told a party seminar in Surat Thani Province yesterday morning that in light of protests by villagers against the dam, it would be reviewed by the Government. The Government must be responsible for the consequences of building the dam, he said.

"The Government has to decide whether to keep the dam or not. Its adverse effects and the contribution it makes to the lives of the local people must be taken into consideration," he said.

The recent clash between opponents and supporters of the dam needs to be solved through compromise, he said. The Government must send officials to negotiate with them. It is still not known who caused the unrest. Although the villagers have the right to protest, they must not destroy public property.

Police Director Denies Force Used

BK0903012993 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 9 Mar 93 p 3

[Excerpts] Police Director General Sawat Amonwiwat yesterday denied police had used force to break up a protest against the Pak Mun Dam.

He said the police were actually trying to help prevent fighting between protesters and those who support the dam, but it was the police who suffered most.

"The fact is, it was police who were dispersed," said Pol Gen [Police General] Sawat.

He said police were trying to maintain peace and order at the construction site in Ubon Ratchathani where dam protesters reportedly were stopping workers from entering the site when a group of dam supporters approached to attack them.

Police, fearing heavy casualties if fighting broke out, tried to stop the attackers but later found themselves in the midst of the strife.

"The supporters were strong men and the protesters old people. If they fought, they would be killed or injured. Police had to help block the approaching group," he said.

Pol Gen Sawat said police could hardly protect themselves because only 15 of the 100-strong force was equipped with rattan shields.

He said police were stoned by one group when they attempted to hold back the other.

"As you can see, most of the injured are policemen."

Pol Gen Sawat said police did not start the fighting and they tried to help prevent a battle.

Protesters have claimed it was the police who resorted to violence in handling the protest, but Pol Gen Sawat said: "I don't know whether that is true or false but what I told you was according to a police report."

He also could not confirm whether the situation leading up to the violence was a set-up, but claimed it was not possible that violence against police was aimed at provoking a fight between the two groups.

Pol Gen Sawat said the police peacekeeping role during the protest was to provide people with security and to ensure their rights to ather to ether if they act under the law.

He also implied the police lacked full authority in implementing peacekeeping plans in the provinces.

The Police Department ensures security during protests in Bangkok, but security in the provinces is clearly designed by the Interior Ministry and is supervised by provincial governors, he said.

"In a province, it is the provincial governor who carries out the plan, not the police. Police only take orders from the provincial governor," he said. [passage omitted]

Interior Minister Chawalit Yongchaiyut said the violence involved dam protesters and supporters.

He said he did not believe the governor of Ubon Ratchathani would be capable of mobilising people to confront the protesters.

"It was a conflict of interest between two groups of people," he said, adding that he believes the situation should improve.

About 50 students, led by Narong Changkamon, coordinator of the Committee to Conserve Natural Resources and Environment from 16 Institutes, yesterday staged a protest in front of Government House denouncing the Government for resorting to violence against a peaceful gathering of villagers.

Mr Narong accused the Government of employing old methods in breaking up the protest by intentionally stirring up trouble at the scene before using force.

A statement issued by the student organisation charged the Government with giving more importance to the construction of the dam, where 38 per cent of the investment cost has already been committed, than the quality of people's lives.

It also accused Prime Minister Chuan Likphai of betraying the public by using violence in solving the problem.

"This is no different to the dictatorial government of Gen Suchinda Kraprayun," the statement said.

The protesting students called or the Government to hold a public hearing to discuss any possible damage to the environment and the flood situation caused by the construction of Pak Mun Dam by the Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand (EGAT).

Mr Narong said his group would wait until today for the Government to respond on the public hearing, after which it would continue to exert pressure on the Government if no decision was made.

Prime Minister Chuan yesterday reaffirmed his Government had no plans to cancel the construction of the dam.

He said he had told the group of protesters who blocked Soi Mor Leng in front of his home on Sunday that the Government may not be able to call off the construction because the project had already been approved and pursued by previous governments.

The Prime Minister said the Government did not necessarily have to agree to all requests as it had to consider working in the national interest first.

Mr Chuan said he was willing to listen to the protesters but asked that they stage demonstrations within the limits allowed by the law and not use methods which cause trouble for other people, such as blockading roads. [passage omitted]

Pak Mun Dam Project Highlights 'Communication Gap'

BK0903013793 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 9 Mar 93 p 4

[Editorial: "Pak Mun Debacle Due to Communications Gap"]

[Text] The alleged use of force by the police to break up the non-violent protest against the Pak Mun dam in Ubon Ratchathani Province brought back bitter memories of the national tragedy last May when brute force was unleashed by the state to quell prodemocracy demonstrations. There is one major difference, however, between these two incidents—no one was killed this time, although several protesters and dam supporters were injured, including women and children.

The forced dispersal of the dam protesters, though later denied by the Police Department, has drawn heavy criticism as well as condemnation from non-governmental organisations and student activists. Many of them openly admitted to feeling betrayed by a government which they had expected to be more responsive to the voices of the people. Though their emotional outbursts are understandable, it would be unfair to put this government in the same category as that of a former prime minister who apparently does not feel any sense of remorse for the killing of innocent people last May. At least, Prime Minister Chuan Likphai is not the trigger-happy type of man who believes that a problem can be solved by the use of violence.

Apparently, a big communications gap still exists between the Government and the dam protesters. It is a gap which was probably caused by misinformation or misinterpretation of information that led to the suspicion by several government leaders that the protesters are merely trouble-makers instead of genuine victims of a development project. Because of such suspicion and mistrust, the plight of the protesters was not properly responded to—some might describe it as being totally ignored—from the very beginning. Instead, it was permitted to drag on until it exploded into a violent confrontation.

The protesters who are directly affected by the consequences of the Pak Mun dam are not against the dam by itself. Reluctantly though they have accepted as a fait accompli that they will have to live with the ugly-looking concrete structure which straddles the once beautiful Pak Mun river. In fact, it is the way that the Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand (EGAT) has been treating the affected villagers that has caused much of the widespread dissatisfaction that has led to the protests. For instance, the blasting of Kaeng Tana rapids in the Mun river.

EGAT has claimed all along that it was granted permission by the Forestry Department to blast the rapids which are located in national park. But the National Park Law forbids such an act. It was also alleged that the blasting of the rapids was not mentioned in the environmental impact assessment study of the dam project. EGAT also claimed at the outset that less than 100 families would have to be evacuated because their land would be flooded. But in actuality, about 900 families will have to be resettled. So, withholding some damning facts or EGAT not telling the whole truth appears to be the main problem breeding public resentment.

Then there are the matters of the Schistosomiasis disease threat and the negative effect caused to the aquatic life by the blockade of the natural flow of the Pak Mun river. The affected villagers have every right to know—and to be informed by the state—if they are at risk of contracting the water-borne disease. And also whether aquatic life will be affected which will have an impact on their livelihood. To be fair, the points made by the protesters and environment groups are valid.

But instead of responding with straight facts as they should have, certain local authorities in Ubon Ratchathani resorted to an old tactic favoured by previous dictatorial regimes—which is to divide and rule. As such, impoverished villagers were manipulated and pitted against other equally poor villagers. This eventually developed into a showdown to give a pretext for intervention to put down the dam protest. Such a tactic should never be tolerated nor allowed by a government which respects freedom of expression and which is receptive to the voice of the people.

The Pak Mun dam is typical of the "top down" development projects in which people who are directly affected are excluded in the decision-making process or whose views are completely ignored. Accidentally, the sudden emergence of the issue has provided a test case to determine the "transparency" of the government of Prime Minister Chuan Likphai—whether it is receptive to the voice of the small people and whether it genuinely cares for their livelihood and the environment.

Prime Minister Sees Good Economic Trend in 1993

BK0903100193 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 0000 GMT 9 Mar 93

[Text] Asked about the impact of the current political situation on the country's economy, Prime Minister Chuan Likphai said that the report from the Bank of Thailand indicated the country's economy is in a good trend while investment will be further enhanced and the country's export target is fairly high. The overall picture does not look bad.

The investment by the state might be double or more than that in the past year. The budget allocated for this year's infrastructure development is much higher than that of last year.

The prime minister noted that the Government adheres to and strictly implements the policy statement it has presented to the National Assembly. It would take some time for the recovery of the past economic slump. However, he believed that this year's economic growth rate would be no lower than 8 percent.

Regarding the U.S. trade restrictions, the economic ministers have been holding consultations while the Commerce Ministry is working on the problems pertaining to the patent and copyright issues. Deputy Prime Minister Amnuai Wirawan will this week go to the United States and meet with the U.S. vice president to discuss these issues.

Trade Deficit Expected To Increase in 1993

BK0903100993 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 0000 GMT 9 Mar 93

[Excerpts] The economic ministers' meeting chaired by Prime Minister Chuan Likphai at Government House yesterday morning approved the five-year transportation plan submitted by the communications minister comprising 221 projects worth 382,762.433 million baht. Fifty-two projects, worth 187,419.650 million baht, are the continuation of those implemented under the sixth development plan. [passage omitted]

The economic ministers approved the export target and export promotion guideline and measures proposed by Export Development Committee. The 1993 export target is set at 981 billion baht, an increase of 136 billion baht from that of 1992. The breakdowns of the anticipated total export value are as follows: 158.425 billion baht from 34 items of agricultural, fishery, and animal husbandry products; 613.7 billion baht from 120 items of industrial products; 7.480 billion baht from fuel and mineral products; and 201.395 billion baht from other miscellaneous products.

It is anticipated that the total value of 1993 imports will be 1,215 billion baht, an increase of 15.2 percent from that of 1992. The rise is attributed to the importation of capital goods, raw materials and semi-finished products, and vehicles. The country is therefore expected to suffer a trade deficit of 234 billion baht, an increase of 11.4 percent from that in 1992.

Import Duty Cut for 7 Products

BK0903025793 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 9 Mar 93 p 24

[Text] The Customs Department has announced import duty cuts on seven categories of products to new rates of 0-20 percent.

The products are:

—Warning flares, cut from 80 percent down to 20 percent to assist with safety work on highways and elsewhere.

—Compressors (category number 8,414.30), from 30 percent down to 5 percent to assist the refrigeration and freezing industry.

—Typewriters and word processors, from 40 percent down to 20 percent.

—Electronic calculators from 40 percent down to 20 percent.

—Cash registers from 40 percent to 20 percent, to assist sales and the collection of value added-tax.

—Photocopiers, from 40 percent to 20 percent to assist education and business.

—Charcoal, from 7 percent to 0 percent to assist industry and protect the environment.

Export Promotion Plan Includes Patent Crackdown

BK0903022793 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 9 Mar 93 p 17

[Text] The "Economic Cabinet" yesterday approved a package of measures to boost Thailand's exports, including tougher action against patent and copyright violators.

The Council of Economic Ministers which has full Cabinet powers on economic issues, decided to adopt the 12 sets of measures because of fears that this year's merchandise export target of 981 billion baht [Bt] might not be met.

The tougher action on intellectual property, including orders to various agencies to make more arrests, is designed to reduce the threat of sanctions against Thai exports, particularly by the United States.

Also in the package are proposals to encourage barter and counter-trade. Ministers decided to try to make

Thailand a clearing house for this kind of trade so that deals need not necessarily involve goods that Thailand itself wants to import.

Ministers will also monitor every month how well the export figures are progressing towards the target, which would represent 16.1 percent growth on last year. A full evaluation will be undertaken in the middle of the year.

The target envisages a further expansion of the industrial sector's share of exports to 613.7 billion baht or 62.6 percent of total exports. [This and following additions and variations are carried in a similar report by Bangkok THE NATION in English on 9 March. Here THE NATION adds: "Three categories of mineral and fuel are targeted to grow 17.1 per cent to Bt7.48 billion. And 137 other product categories are set to grow 40.6 per cent to Bt201.39 billion. They represent 20.5 per cent of total exports."] The target for agriculture is 158.42 billion baht or about 16.1 percent.

The Government expects the top 10 export earners this year to be garments computers and parts, gems and jewellery, shrimps and prawns rice, shoes rubber, integrated circuits, canned seafood and radio and television receivers and parts. These are targeted to represent 42 percent of total exports. [THE NATION adds: "Major markets are expected to be the United States (23 per cent of total exports), Japan (18 per cent), the European Community (16.8 per cent), and Asean (13.5 per cent). They account for a combined 71.4 per cent of total Thai exports.

["Imports are set to rise by 15.2 per cent to Bt1.2 trillion. The trade deficit is projected to increase 11.4 per cent to Bt234 billion."]

The decision to take tougher action against patent and copyright piracy comes about a month before the US Government is due to announce whether it will impose higher import duties against selected Thai products because of intellectual property rights violations.

This week Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri is visiting the United States and could discuss the issue with American leaders and officials. [THE NATION adds: "Deputy Prime Minister Amnuai Wirawan is scheduled to fly to Washington this week to meet US Vice-President Al Gore and discuss protection of intellectual property rights involving pharmaceutical patents, video and music recordings."]

Thailand is already on Washington's "priority foreign country" list of trading partners being watched most closely for intellectual property rights violations.

The Americans remain dissatisfied with the amount of audio and video tape piracy that is escaping prosecution in Thailand and with certain provisions in patent law allowing the Government to withdraw patent rights if pharmaceuticals are deemed to be priced too high.

If Washington feels progress has been so slow as to warrant tougher action than keeping Thailand on the watch list then its only choice available would be to impose some penalties on Thai exports.

Yesterday's economic cabinet meeting assigned the Commerce and Foreign ministries to work out solutions to trade problems, both multilaterally and bilaterally with the US, European Community and Japan.

The decision to make Thailand a clearing house for barter and countertrade is designed to tackle the problem inherent in both kinds of trade—that countries with goods to export do not always want the goods their trading partners are offering in return.

By broadening the trade to cover several countries, with Thailand as a clearing house, the chances of this kind of trade succeeding are increased, ministers believe.

The Finance Ministry was instructed to speed up its adjustment of the import tax on semi-finished material. Unless the ministry is able to complete the adjustment for all industries, it should speed up work to support certain industries first, such as garments, gems and jewellery and shoes. [The NATION adds: "The Council also ordered the Finance Ministry to speed up tax credit from value added tax [VAT] rebates and amend the VAT act to enable firms to pat [as published] with bank guarantees (for imported semi-raw materials for re-export purposes) instead of upfront cash."]

The Council of Economic Ministers assigned the Bank of Thailand to implement the plan to establish an Exim Bank as soon as possible to boost exports while the Board of Investment was told to strengthen its promotional role for export manufacturing projects in Thailand.

The Ministry of Communication and Transport was to solve the problem regarding the rise in shipping firms expenses both at the Port Authority of Thailand and at ANERA the Asia-North America Eastbound Rate Agreement that sets shipping rates.

Although the measures were adopted, the Government would again bring them to the consideration at the Joint Public and Private Sectors Consultative Committee (JPPCC) at its next meeting.

The Government hopes to receive suggestions from the private sector on whether other or more-proper measures should be added to help boost the country's exports.

Burmese Troops Capture, Hold Two Thai Hunters

BK0703091993 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 0530 GMT 7 Mar 93

[Text] Two Thai villagers were captured by Burmese troops stationed opposite Thasongyang District of Tak Province while hunting inside Burmese territory.

According to a station correspondent's dispatch from Tak Province, three Thai villagers—Ta Khwanmano, Muang Kham-una, and Sun Chaikwang, natives of Mae La Village in Thasongyang District—were armed with shotguns when they crossed the border to the Burmese side to shoot birds yesterday. They were then immediately surrounded by 30 Burmese soldiers from Light Infantry Battalion 356 only about four or five meters from the Thai border. Ta and Muang were arrested while Sun managed to escape back to the Thai side. Relatives of the two arrested villagers sent their representatives to negotiate with the Burmese soldiers for the release of the two. The Burmese soldiers refused to release the two villagers and said they will give an answer in the next three or four days.

Earlier, soldiers from this same unit captured nine Thai villagers in a nearby area on 21 February. Four villagers were released after one day after their relatives paid 6,000 baht. The remaining five were released nine days after a fine was paid for their illegal entry into Burma.

Khao I-dang Refugee Center Closed

BK0503073593 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 0530 GMT 5 Mar 93

[Text] According to a report from the Foreign Ministry, on 3 March the Cambodian Refugee Repatriation Coordination Center officially closed the Khao I-dang Refugee Center in Ta Phraya District of Prachin Buri Province. Attending the closing ceremony were representatives of agencies concerned.

As the last group of Cambodian refugees was repatriated from the center, 78 families were sent back to Sisophon District of Banteay Meanchey Province. From now on there will be no displaced Cambodian people at the center.

The Khao I-dang Center was opened in 1979 to shelter Cambodian refugees. In 1989 the Thai Government ordered its closure and turned it into a repatriation processing center for Cambodian refugees. It was later called the Preparatory Center for the Repatriation of Cambodians after more illegal immigrants were sent to the center, which also served as a vocational training place for the Cambodians prior to their repatriation.

The 1,700-rai premises of the center will be reforested and used for cultivation by local Thai people.

So far, the office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees has repatriated a total number of 312,899 displaced Cambodian people while 42,231 others still remain at Site 2 in Ta Phraya District. Their repatriation will be expedited and completed before the end of this month.

Council Approves Multiyear Budgeting Proposal

BK0903024193 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 9 Mar 93 p 17, 24

[Text] The Council of Economic Ministers yesterday approved a Finance Ministry proposal to reform the budgeting process to introduce a "multi-year" budgeting basis as recommended by the International Monetary Fund.

Finance Minister Tharin Nimmanhemin said the council had told all ministries with long-term investment plans to submit details of their investment plans to the Cabinet. A high-powered committee would be established to consider the plans so that a multi-year budget plan could be written.

Mr Tharin said he agreed with the IMF recommendation as long-term budgeting would help the Government to know the future investment plans of each ministry and thereby have a clearer direction in setting the annual budget.

He was not sure whether the new system could be introduced in time to apply to the 1994 fiscal budget.

The 1994 fiscal budget would be set based on projections of 8 percent economic growth and the Government would concentrate more on investment in its spending. The amount of funds allocated to investment would be a higher proportion of the total budget than the 30.7 percent in 1993.

Mr Tharin could not say what the figures for the 1994 annual budget would be. The government had adopted balanced budgets for the previous three financial years but the Chuan Government decided carry a budget deficit in the 1993 fiscal year, although the deficit was only small.

He said the agencies involved in collecting revenue had already completed their projections for collections in fiscal 1994, with total collection expected to climb to 10 percent.

He had told those agencies, including the Revenue, Excise and Customs departments, to review their projections to ensure their projections are reasonable.

After that, a meeting between the three departments, the Finance Ministry, the Budget Bureau, and the National Economic and Social Development Board would be held next week.

"A draft of the 1994 fiscal budget is expected to be completed and be tabled to the Cabinet before June 2 and it will be proposed before Parliament by the end of June for the first reading," Mr Tharin said.

The proposal for the government to submit annual "multi-year" budgets came from two teams of experts from the International Monetary Fund who visited Thailand last week.

The IMF officials have recommended that each year the government should prepare spending plans for the next three years, a practice that is said to be popular in other countries.

Army Radio Reveals Plan To Offer News

BK0903015993 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 9 Mar 93 p 6

[Text] The Army will present news updates every hour via satellite on its radio stations nationwide beginning April 1 in an effort to catch up with the information technology revolution.

Army spokesman Col Phalangkun Klahan said yesterday that a radio station of the Army Signals Department will relay the hourly news updates via satellite to all the other Army-run radio stations throughout the country.

A private firm will be chosen to produce and broadcast the news updates which will last five minutes at the beginning of every hour, Col Phalangkun said.

The updates may cover political events and issues that directly affect the Army, according to the Army spokesman.

"It's the era of update information. We'll present accurate and fast news which will cover everything—politics, business as well as social and scientific subjects," he said.

He said no news will be censored.

[Bangkok THE NATION in English on 9 March, in a similar story, adds: "Phalangkun insisted there would not be any censorship, even if a news story might affect the military's image.

["'Censorship is the matter of the past,' he told reporters."]

Deputy Army Chief-of-Staff Lt-Gen [Lieutenant Generall] Yutthana Khamdi is heading a team of Army officers from the Army's Civil Affairs Department, the Army Secretary Office and the First Army Division Radio Station in selecting a "reliable" private firm the spokesman said.

Vietnam Seen as Source for Raw Materials

BK0403025393 Bangkok THE NATION in English 4 Mar 93 p A2

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister Amnuai Wirawan said yesterday the government is eyeing Vietnam as a potential source of raw materials to support industrial development in the Northeast.

Amnuai said he told outgoing Vietnamese Ambassador to Thailand Nguyen Trung that the plan was part of the government's policy of opening the Isaan region as a gateway to Indochina.

Nguyen Trung called on him to bid farewell on the occasion of his completing a three-year tour of duty as ambassador here. During the talks, both sides also discussed ways to increase Thai investment in Vietnam as well as bilateral cooperation to avoid a price war of Thai and Vietnamese rice in the world market.

Amnuai said he expressed hope that as the result of the rice cooperation, price cutting problem would be reduced next year.

Vietnam

Commentary Rejects UNTAC Assertion on Troops

BK0803152793 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 8 Mar 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] In recent days, the Khmer Rouge have conducted many armed conflicts in Prey Veng and Kompong Thom Provinces, killing many Cambodian civilians, burning down six houses, and setting ablaze a UN truck. Moreover, they continued to burn voting cards and sabotage the coming elections.

Despite the Supreme National Council of Cambodia [SNC] resolution and that of the United Nations on the ban on logging and exporting gemstones, the Khmer Rouge has cited no heed to them. To cope with this situation UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] has set up more check points along the border and at the airport.

Of the 17 border checkpoints along the Cambodian-Thai border, only eight are operating; the remaining nine in the Khmer Rouge's control areas are not yet in operation as the Khmer Rouge have not allowed entry to UNTAC members.

To cover up their violations to the Paris agreement on Cambodia, the Khmer Rouge have grossly slandered Vietnam and the State of Cambodia. Regrettably, UNTAC has put forth what it called three Vietnamese in foreign forces and demanded their expulsion from Cambodia, [words indistinct] Vietnam said this accusation is a violation of the Paris agreement on Cambodia and other documents released by UNTAC itself.

On March 6th, Premier Hun Sen, in an official statement, rejected this allegation. Public opinion in Cambodia and the international community expressed the wish for the United Nations and signatories to the Paris accord to take a tough measure to force the Khmer Rouge to abide by the accord and to implement the peace process in Cambodia.

Spokesman Criticizes UNTAC Statement

BK0903113793 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 9 Mar 93

[Text] A spokesman for the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry has voiced Vietnam's viewpoints on UNTAC's [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] attitude toward a number of Vietnamese who previously served the Vietnamese Armed Forces and now become Cambodian civilians.

The spokesman said those people have been living in Cambodia, a fact which has been [word indistinct] for in March 2 1993. Noteworthy for the world public always with the UN's objective and fair attitude in assessment of international issues, including the Cambodian issue. [sentence as heard]

The spokesman pointed out that the resolution adopted by the UN Security Council on Monday as well as UNTAC's report equalize those who have seriously abided by the Paris agreement and the saboteurs. That resolution is subjective and only encourages sabotage activities against the Paris agreement on Cambodia and detrimental to the peace process in this country.

[Hong Kong AFP in English at 1055 GMT on 9 March, in a Hanoi-datelined report, adds the following statement by the Foreign Ministry spokesman: "The U.N. Security Council resolution considering ordinary citizens living legally in Cambodia as 'foreign forces' and calling for their expulsion, even separating them from their families, goes against the conventions on human rights adopted by the United Nations itself."]

Vo Van Kiet Addresses Anti-Corruption Conference

BK0803085393 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 7 Mar 93

[Text] On 4 March, the standing body of the Central Anti-Corruption and Smuggling Committee held its regular conference under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet to review past work in the struggle against corruption and smuggling and to discuss tasks for the days ahead.

Addressing the conference, Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet said: Generally speaking, the implementation of the government's decision on anticorruption and smuggling has achieved some initial yet encouraging results. Guidance and supervision in the anticorruption and smuggling campaign in many sectors and localities have improved remarkably. Coordination between law enforcement agencies in discovering, monitoring, and dealing with corruption and smuggling cases has been strengthened. As a result, many major cases were detected and appropriately dealt with.

However, the implementation of the government's order in this regard in some sectors and localities has been carried out slowly. The trials of several major corruption and smuggling cases at the central level as well as in provinces were conducted slowly despite the fact that the court had sufficient evidence, thereby seriously affecting the drive and efforts to oppose corruption and smuggling.

The prime minister urged that in the days ahead efforts must be made to review legal documents in order to perfect the system, lines, and policies concerning the struggle against corruption and smuggling. The government will seek consultations with various party committees to review party documents pertaining to cadres and party members who are involved in corruption and smuggling cases. This is aimed at ensuring uniform measures in dealing with these cadres and party members. Efforts must also be made to seriously implement the court verdicts on corruption and smuggling cases—a pressing issue in localities and at the central level. At present, only 30 percent of the total court verdicts have been seriously implemented. If the execution of court sentences are not prompt and definite, it will adversely affect the sacred role of the court, especially in its hearing other cases in the near future.

The prime minister stressed: Speedy trial of violation cases and prompt, serious execution of court verdicts are significant factors contributing to effectively accelerating the struggle against corruption and smuggling.

Government Holds Conferences on Draft Land Law

BK0403134793 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 3 Mar 93

[Text] In the first three days of March the government held conferences to discuss the revised draft bill on land in Hanoi Capital, Ho Chi Minh City, and Quang Nam-Da Nang Province. The conferences were held to perfect the draft bill before seeking public opinions and presenting it to the next session of the National Assembly.

Comrade Phan Van Khai, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau and deputy prime minister; Nguyen Ha Phan, secretary of the party Central Committee, vice chairman of the National Assembly, and director of the party Economics Department; and Tran Duc Luong, member of the party Central Committee and deputy prime minister directly chaired the conferences in three different localities.

In Hanoi, Vice President Nguyen Thi Binh and National Assembly Chairman Nong Duc Manh attended the conference together with delegates from provinces of North Vietnam. Authorized by the prime minister, Agriculture Minister Nguyen Cong Tan reported on the implementation of the Law on Land and the direction to revise it.

Reviewing major achievements after five year of implementing the law, the government report confirms that the Law on Land is one of the first laws to institutionalize the renovation line set forth by the Seventh National Party Congress. Through its implementation, the management and use of land have become better and more efficient, helping to stabilize and increase production.

The report defines the general direction for the revision of the law and other legal documents on land to ensure the supreme and uniform management right of the state over the total land and to clearly define the responsibility and rights of land users, especially peasants. The transfer, transaction, rent, mortgage, and inheritance of the right of land use must be concretely delineated by laws, creating conditions for gradually accumulating land in a reasonable situation to develop the agricultural commodity production and improve the division and distribution of labor in the industrialization process.

In the three conferences, the delegates contributed many practical and lively opinions on important issues such as the estimation of land price, transaction of land using rights, accumulation of land, retainment of 10 percent of agriculture in villages, settlement of land disputes, and state management organization on land.

Phan Van Khai Urges Expanding Investment in 1993

BK0403070393 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1000 GMT 3 Mar 93

[From the 3 March press review]

[Text] NHAN DAN today frontpages the contents of VNA's interview with Comrade Phan Van Khai—member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau, deputy prime minister of the government, and chairman of the Central Financial and Monetary Council—on a number of economic and financial issues in 1993.

Regarding the issue of investing in development in 1993, Comrade Phan Van Khai says:

As specified in the socioeconomic strategy until the year 2000, the target for gross national product in 1993 must double that in 1990. This means that there must be an average annual growth of 7.2 percent. To meet that rate, it is necessary to increase investment capital for the 10-year period to approximately $40 billion. Of this, nearly half must be amassed from domestic sources.

For the 1991-95 five-year period in particular, investment capital must be increased to approximately $12-14 billion. Total investment in the economic sector during the 1991-92 two-year period was approximately $2 billion only.

Starting in 1993, we must rapidly expand the scope of investment with capital amassed from many sources—including businesses, the people, the state, and foreign countries—to quicken the pace of development. Only in this way can we achieve the strategic objectives of the struggle to gradually narrow the gap in the level of economic development between us and our neighbors, thus avoiding the dangers of lagging behind.

Moreover, only by accelerating investment in development can we create more jobs and augment income for the people and boost revenues for the state budget, thereby ameliorating the social situation.

The important thing is that we must carefully gauge the effects of all investment projects. The state must concentrate on investing in the construction of socioeconomic infrastructure, while enterprises and the people must depend on self-acquired capital, share-accumulated capital, or borrowed capital to invest in development of their production and business activities. The state can extend credit loans on a preferential basis to a number of production and business establishments, including state enterprises, for use as operational capital, and not as investment capital as in the past.

Premier Receives Japan's Mitsui Group Officials

BK0503142793 Hanoi VNA in English 1421 GMT 5 Mar 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 5—Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet received at the presidential palace here today a delegation of Japanese Mitsui group led by Mr. Yoshikuni Yahiro, Mitsui senior advisor, on a current visit to Vietnam at the invitation of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

On behalf of the delegation which includes senior officials of nine companies belonging to the group, Mr Yahiro said that the aim of the visit is to discuss with the Vietnamese side on development of bilateral cooperation chiefly in chemical industry. He informed the prime minister of the fact that Mitsui group has raised 90,000 dollars for Vietnam's young talent protection fund with the prime minister as the honourary chairman.

For his part, Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet stressed that Vietnam's development could not be separated from cooperation with friendly neighbouring countries including Japan, and that what Mitsui has done in Vietnam is an important basis to broaden cooperation not only for the immediate time but also for far future, and in chemical as well as other fields. The prime minister assured the Japanese guests of Vietnam's determinations to create favourable conditions for Japanese companies to do business in Vietnam in whatever fields they are interested in. He took this opportunity to express sincere thanks to Mitsui Group for the fund it raised for the Vietnamese young people.

Pacific Airlines Opens New Route to Taiwan

BK0503140993 Hanoi VNA in English 1348 GMT Mar 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 5—Pacific Airlines, the first joint stock company in air service in Vietnam, opened a new route linking Hanoi and Kaoshing in Taiwan early this month.

The inaugural flight carrying 30 Taiwanese businesemen and tourists landed at the Noi Bao International Airport on Wednesday.

This is the second air link to Taiwan by Pacific Airlines, which operates two regular round-trip flights a week on Wednesday and Sunday.

The first air route linking Ho Chi Minh City and Taipei, was officially opened last September. So far, Pacific Airlines has carried 9,597 passengers and 7,360 kilogrammes of cargoes from Ho Chi Minh City to Taipei and back.

National Judiciary Conference Ends 6 Mar

BK0603150193 Hanoi VNA in English 1426 GMT 6 Mar 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 6—A three-day judiciary conference convened by the Supreme People's Court was concluded here today.

The conference's aim was to review the trials of corruption and illicit trade over the past three months in implementation of Instruction 15 of the Party Political Bureau and Decision 114 of the prime minister. It also discussed research papers on the trial of cases of housing disputes, sales of houses and inheritance of real estate.

It was reported at the conference that in the last three months, the people's courts in 26 provinces and cities and the court of the 7th military zone tried 88 cases of corruption, 13 cases of illicit trade or contraband, and 5 cases of production and trade of faked goods. The courts passed 10 life imprisonment sentences, 84 others from 10 to 20 years and 130 from one to 7 years in prison. Chairman of the National Assembly Nong Duc Manh attended and addressed the final session of the conference. He stressed the importance of the present task of building Vietnam into a 'law-governed state of the people, by the people and for the people'.

Vo Van Kiet Changes Name of Women's Organization

BK0503140093 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 5 Mar 93

[Text] Vietnamese Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet has decided to change the name of the National Committee of Vietnamese Women Status into the National Committee for the Progress of Vietnamese Women. Madame Truong My Hoa, chairman of the Vietnam Women Union is now the chairman of the committee.

The National Committee for the Progress of Vietnamese Women has the duty to continue to assimilate the meaning of the United Nations Convention on the Abolishment of Discrimination Against Women. It also cooperates with the United Nations and other international organizations, governmental and non-governmental organizations to strive for the aim of privy equality and development.

Do Muoi Visits Women's Weekly Magazine

BK0603142193 Hanoi VNA in English 1409 GMT 6 Mar 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 6—Secretary General of the Communist Party of Vietnam Do Muoi recently paid a visit to the 'WOMEN OF VIETNAM' weekly, occasioned by the coming 45th anniversary of this organ of the Vietnam Women's Union.

The party leader praised the achievements made by the weekly in mobilizing women throughout the country to take part in revolution and economic construction. He also wished the paper still greater successes in its current efforts to contribute to the renovation process and the betterment of Vietnam women's material and spiritual life.

Functions Mark International Women's Day

BK0803150993 Hanoi VNA in English 1416 GMT 8 Mar 93

[All punctuation as received]

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 8—A mass meeting was held here this morning by the Hanoi Women's Union on the occasion of the 83rd International Women's Day (March 8) and the 1953rd ceremony of Trung sisters' uprising. Attending the meeting were Pham The Duyet, Politburo member of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee and secretary of the Hanoi city party committee Truong My Hoa, president of the Vietnam Women's Union Le At Hoi, mayor of the city and Mrs. Nguyen Kim Thanh, president of the Hanoi Women's Union. Addressing the meeting Mrs Thanh reviewed the history of the International Women's Day and the two Trung sisters' insurrection against the Chinese feudal occupation in the first century. The highlighted the achievements in various fields gained by the city's women in 1992 [sentence as received]. The Hanoi women's organization last year helped 6,000 poor women with aid funds, materials, technical knowhow and jobs to increase their incomes and improve their living conditions. Hanoi's women also contributed 92 million dong to help support less and underprivileged women in the city. A meeting in the same vein was held in Ho Chi Minh city. Also today a get-together to mark the women's anniversary was held between the Central Committee of Vietnam Women's Union [VWU] and foreign women in Hanoi.

Foreign guests included woman ambassadors, wives of ambassadors, representatives of international agencies and governmental and non- governmental organizations. Prominent among the Vietnamese participants were Mrs Nguyen Thi Binh, vice president of Vietnam, and Truong My Hoa, president of the VWU. Speaking at the function, Mrs Truong My Hoa expressed the Vietnamese women's best wishes to women the world over. She noted that this get-together showed the friendship, cooperation and encouragement of the world women to Vietnamese women.

Vo Tran Chi Attends Women's Federation Function

BK0903031093 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 8 Mar 93

[Text] The Ho Chi Minh City Women's Federation held a solemn meeting this morning at Ho Chi Minh City Theater to mark the 83d International Women's Day and the 1953d anniversary of the Trung Sisters' Uprising. Comrade Vo Tran Chi, member of the party Political Bureau and secretary of the city party committee attended the function.

On behalf of the city women, Comrade Doan Mai Huong, president of the Ho Chi Minh City Women's Federation, delivered a speech reviewing the traditional struggle of the Vietnamese women for national protection and construction symbolized by the Trung Sisters. Continuing in the courageous tradition of the Trung Sisters, the Ho Chi Minh City women glorified the Golden Letters of Heroism, Inexorability, Loyality, Gratefulness, and Efficiency during the war of resistance. The city women, in the construction and protection of the Vietnamese socialist fatherland undertaking, have contributed endlessly in the fields of production, business, education, health care, and have created a new people with a better lifestyle, especially in health care for mothers and children.

On this occasion, the Central Committee of the Vietnam Women's Federation conferred certificates of distinction on 40 women organization working units from the city to subward and village levels. The Ho Chi Minh City People's Committee awarded certificates of distinction to 21 units. The Ho Chi Minh City Women's Federation also conferred certificates to some units for their outstanding work in 1992.

Kien Giang Sets Up Kien Hai TV Relay Station

BK0403141793 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 4 mar 93

[Text] Kien Giang, the westernmost province of southern Vietnam with many islands and a common border with Cambodia, has been paying good attention to the development of radio and television networks, as its leading role and to improve the people's cultural and spiritual lives.

Every night, apart from the current affairs program of Vietnam Television Network which is relayed through satellite with a one-kilowatt transmitter, the station also broadcasts its own programs reflecting all aspects of local life. The station transmits three times each day, morning, noon, and evening, a 30-minute program in Vietnamese, and a 20-minute program in the Khmer language.

Twelve radio relay stations in towns and districts are operating normally and the transmission network through all the villages is being maintained. Television transmission signals cover 80 percent of the province, while radio signals cover the whole province.

Apart from the television relay stations in Ha Tien, Phu Quoc, and Kien Luong, a new station was inaugurated before the Tet Lunar New Year, at the island village of An Phuong in Nam Du Archipelago, to serve people in Kien Hai island district.

In the near future, the Kien Giang Television Station will upgrade its current one-kw transmitter to a five-kw one. This will enable the station to relay the complete program of the Vietnam Television Network, and to cover the whole provincial area with television transmission signals.

Australia

Opposition Leader: Country Lacks Asia's Respect

BK0703054693 Hong Kong AFP in English 0235 GMT 7 Mar 93

[By Tim Cribb]

[Text] Sydney, March 7 (AFP)—Australia lacks respect and recognition in Asia and a conservative government would recast foreign and trade priorities to redress that, opposition leader John Hewson has said. In an interview ahead of next Saturday's national election, Hewson said Prime Minister Paul Keating's Labor government has talked plenty, but done little to establish Australia as a key player in the region.

"We've lost a fair bit of respect in the Asia-Pacific region because of our relative economic performance, which has marginalised us, we believe, in the eyes of a lot of the countries of Asia," Hewson said.

"For us to be respected, we have to begin by getting our house in order," Hewson said as his campaign to end 10 years of Labor government and become prime minister entered its final stage.

Hewson, a 46-year-old economist, leads a conservative coalition of the Liberal and National parties that is seen as the main threat to Keating's administration.

"It's not a question of size or wealth," Hewson said of Australia's position in Asia. "It's a question of them looking up to you. In the eyes of Asian governments, our considerable potential has not been developed. The only way we can turn that around is to upgrade our economic performance."

Hewson said that, if elected, his government would call a "year of Asia...designed to be a genuine attempt to elevate the significance of Asia to Australia and Australia to Asia...with an emphasis on culture and trade and investment." He was critical of Keating's highly publicised "towards Asia" approach.

"What has he actually done in the last 14 months? Nothing," Hewson said. "We want to upgrade the emphasis on trade, trade negotiations on a bilateral agreement basis in particular. We've thought about having specific quantitative trade objectives with the minister being publicly accountable for the pursuit of those trade access objectives. It's always sort of been an anomaly of the Australian position that we've talked so much about trade and done so little about it," Hewson said.

Statistics from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade suggest that Australian exports to Asia have grown much faster than exports to the rest of the world in the last six years. Exports to the six member countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) almost tripled between 1986 and 1991 to 6.56 billion dollars (8.8 billion U.S.). They now exceed the value of exports to both the European Community (6.33 billion Australian dollars) and the United States (5.45 billion Australian dollars), which rose only modestly in the same period.

ASEAN comprises Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. Japan remains by far the biggest market for Australian exporters, taking in 9.03 billion Australian dollars' worth of goods and services in 1986 and 14.93 billion dollars in 1991. But Hewson said that on his frequent trips to Asia in the past 15 years, as both a politician and an academic, business and political leaders have told him that "they are amazed that we haven't done more at being a leader in the region and pushing much more."

"That's not down playing what's been done with APEC (the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum) and the Cairns Group and those sorts of things," he said. "But from the point of view of a country with our balance of payments problem and our debt problem we should have been out there really going for it. I think we've lost a lot of opportunity."

He said he had heard criticism of Australia's failure to forge more effective links with ASEAN, and agreed that Australia had to reorient itself if it is to cope with the changing regional situation into the next century.

"Although we've made quite a lot of headway with Japan, there's a strong feeling we can do more," he said. "In the next decade or so there is going to be a greater sense of Asia and a greater set of forces working towards unfication in Asia, breaking down trade barriers and opening up much more intraregional trade and investment than there has been."

Budget cuts proposed by Hewson of 10 percent across the board would mean a significant reduction in foreign aid, but to alleviate the cuts Hewson said he would focus more on Asia and on non-governmental agencies "who work pretty much at the coal face of poverty."

He said it has been wrong to give aid to countries which spend higher proportions of their gross national product on defence than Australia does.

Hewson said Australia's first line of foreign policy responsibility should be New Zealand and the South Pacific islands, as well as Papua New Guinea and Indonesia.

"They are after all our border, and yet over the years we have played grand gestures in other parts of the world and really lost a lot of opportunity to establish a standing and an influence in those areas," Hewson said. Labor governments have held power in Canberra since 1983.

Hill Promises Review of Cambodian 'Contribution'

BK0903094093 Hong Kong AFP in English 0911 GMT 9 Mar 93

[Text] Melbourne, Australia, March 9 (AFP)—Australia's future contribution to the Cambodian peace process would be reviewed under a conservative coalition government, opposition foreign affairs spokesman Robert Hill said Tuesday.

Foreign Ministry resources devoted to the war-ravaged country will also be cut if the coalition of Liberal and National Parties wins the March 13 general election, Hill said.

In a speech to the Australian Institute of International Affairs here, he said the coalition was committed to maintaining Australia's 500 troops in Cambodia until the end of their current term of involvement mid-way through the year.

But any commitment beyond that would be based on a thorough review of the situation in Cambodia, where U.N.-organised elections are scheduled to be held in May, though without the participation of the powerful Khmer Rouge.

Hill said the Labor government and Foreign Minister Gareth Evans had maintained a naively optimistic view about Cambodia, where a 15,000-strong U.N. team is trying to implement a peace plan to end years of civil war.

He said the plan had clearly failed and yet the international community had not recognised that the environment in Cambodia was fundamentally different from that originally envisaged.

The U.N. needed now to draw up a comprehensive nation building plan to set out how it would deal with military support for any new government threatened by the Khmer Rouge.

He said Evans had devoted an enormous proportion of his department's resources to the Cambodian question.

"Despite our commitment to Cambodia, a Liberal-National government will not be able to maintain Labor's level of resource allocation in the future, given the number of other priorities we will have in order to achieve our foreign policy goals," Hill said.

However, a government under Liberal Party leader John Hewson would honour Labor's foreign aid commitments to Cambodia, concentrating on distributing it through non-government organisations, Hill said.

Hill also said any future U.N. requests for troops for Somalia would have to be balanced against other interests and Australia's ability to contribute in its own region.

Evans said later that Australia's participation was already due for review after the Cambodian elections.

He said the U.N. peace plan was designed to cover the elections and a three-month period of transition afterwards. Following that, troops were to be withdrawn.

It would be premature to judge what kind of Australian commitment would be needed in Cambodia after the elections.

Evans said Hill's move to cut Australian resources in Cambodia was little more than a cheap political stunt.

The Foreign Affairs Department had only one section devoted to the whole of Indochina and the ongoing diplomacy involved no significant resources.

"I think it will be seen as a bit of cheap politicking and will be ignored internationally as it deserves to be domestically," Evans said.

"The suggestion that the peace plan has failed is palpably nonsensical," he said.

"The process is on track, albeit bumpily and albeit in not quite the form, obviously, that was intended or hoped for at the time of the original Paris agreement."

Fiji

Five Groups Bid To Operate Television Service

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[Text] Five groups are reported to have applied for a license to operate Fiji's first permanent television service. The Fijian Government had accepted five license bidders before the deadline at midnight Saturday and said the identity of the bidding groups would be released this week.

The Suva-based DAILY POST reports the applicants included Australian groups—Global Communications, a Fijian Consortium headed by the Fiji Development Bank, and Television New Zealand. Media magnate Rupert Murdoch's News Limited, which owns the FIJI TIMES, is also reported to have made a bid for the license.

The government is expected to announce the successful bidder in mid-May. However, the prime minister, Sitiveni Rabuka, is of the view that his government's involvement in the television operation should be minimal.

Solomon Islands

Police To Fire Warnings Shots at Unidentified Planes

BK0803092793 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0800 GMT 8 Mar 93

[Text] Solomon Islands police facing the border with Papua New Guinea [PNG] are under orders to fire warning shots at all aircraft failing to respond to requests to identify themselves. The order follows an incident last Friday when two warning shots were fired at what the Solomons police claimed was a PNG defense force plane violating Solomons airspace.

Solomons Assistant Police Commissioner of Operations John (Homolo) says there have been repeated unexplained border violations by PNG aircraft. He says as a result police are now under orders to fire warning shots at all aircraft failing to respond to requests to identify themselves. He says the order came from Prime Minister Solomon Mamaloni and the Solomons National Security Council. He warned that in future the police will be prepared to shoot down any unidentified aircraft which responded in a hostile manner or failed to leave Solomons airspace.